

'The police officers behaved towards us like white masters during slavery'



DEBORAH
ORR

STRAIN, FRUSTRATION and disappointment were etched on the faces of Neville and Doreen Lawrence as they sat flanking their lawyer, Imran Khan, at the Home Office press conference at which they gave their reaction to Sir William Macpherson's report.

Stephen Lawrence's parents have achieved what demonstrations, riots, campaigning journalism and vociferous complaints from the public could not. Their dogged fight to gain justice for their son may yet result in radical reform of the police force, but the report does nothing to help the Lawrences do what they want most — establish the truth about their son's death.

Sitting before the now familiar banner that exhorts us all to "Remember Stephen Lawrence", Doreen Lawrence, as ever more trenchant than her estranged husband, spoke first, reading from a prepared statement, sometimes finding it impossible to articulate the words she so clearly wished she did not have to say.

Making clear that there are parts of the report's findings she does not support, Doreen Lawrence talked bitterly of police officers who had behaved towards her family like "white masters during slavery", of "racist officers who walk the street", and of "killing on the streets and in the back of police vans". She suggested that if there were only a few officers of the Metropolitan Police who were racist, then "all of the officers who were racist were handling our case".

Nothing, she said, had changed since her son's death.



Doreen and Neville Lawrence with their lawyer Imran Khan and the team that has supported them in their long fight for justice

David Rose

She questioned how exactly recommendations to make stop and search procedures "more fair" could be carried out, and suggested that proposals to increase ethnic minority recruitment were not worth the paper they were written on unless an independent body outside the police was established to monitor it. Otherwise, she said, the Metropolitan Police would continue with "patting themselves on the back saying how well they are doing, as they did in the Barker report".

Mrs Lawrence was angry too that the family had again been criticised in Sir William's report, and emphasised once more that she and her husband had had no alternative but to launch their failed private prosecution. She also again asked

what had prevented police officers from giving her son first aid at the scene of the crime, a question which has still not been answered and which lies at the heart of this case. She did welcome proposals that race education should be

included in the national curriculum. "Our history and our background is what separates us," she said, and expressed her belief that if the white youths who had attacked her son had been educated about the role black people have

played in making this country what it is today, then they would not have behaved as they did. As for Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Mrs Lawrence did not reiterate her calls for his resignation, but said instead that

There had been high hopes that the report would pave the way for perjury charges, for which the penalty is a maximum of 15 years' imprisonment. But while these hopes have been dashed, Imran Khan will be reading the report closely, and with a view to finding room for new legal action by the

"he must examine his own self". If he felt he had the support of the black community, which he would need if he really did want to reform the police force, then "he should stay if his conscience allows". Summing up her statement, Mrs Lawrence stated that the report had "only scratched the surface. It has not gone to the heart of the problem."

Nevertheless, she hoped that it would lead to "a time of change in this society".

Neville Lawrence had much less to say than his wife, and thanked the Home Secretary for ordering the inquiry.

"The previous government," he said, "would not have given us this chance." He spoke too of his hope that the report would prove to be a catalyst for change. "People are now aware. We must go forward in the name of our son."

Both of Stephen's parents displayed the dignity that has marked their campaign and the decency without which they could not have gained the strength to punch through the ring of self-protection the officers in this case had tried to build around themselves.

That such an exemplary couple as the Lawrences had to lose a son before the public will to end police racism was mobilised is all the proof that is needed that racism is a problem not just for the police force but for society as a whole.

Other members of the Lawrences' legal and campaign team spoke at the conference of their hopes that the report would prove to be a catalyst for change. But they also noted their frustration at the report's failure to address the role of the five men widely believed to be the killers of their son.

'We feel shame at having let down Stephen's parents'



PAUL
VALLELY

IT WAS, said Sir Paul Condon, a fair question. Which is presumably why he did not attempt to answer it. The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police yesterday emerged briefly — very briefly — from the inner fastness of New Scotland Yard to respond to the devastating criticism of his force by the Macpherson report into the death of Stephen Lawrence.

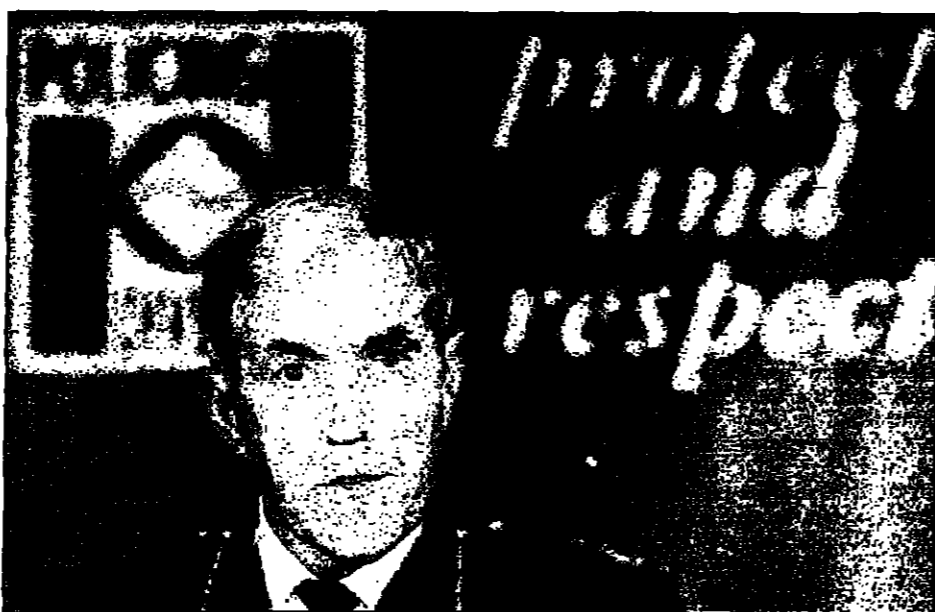
Stony-faced and unblinking he faced the glare of the television lights and repeated that he had no intention of resigning.

He read a prepared statement and answered just three questions before gathering up his papers and bustling away as though he had something more important to do.

He had been ready for the first question. Wouldn't resignation have been the honourable thing? No, he said, he had thought "long and hard" about the issue. Had he personally been found guilty in the report of dishonesty or malpractice he would have gone. But that was not the case. He had a duty to the people of London — and officers of the Met — to stay and carry on the fight.

On the second question he was more taciturn. He had said in his statement he hoped "that our renewed efforts to bring those racists responsible for the murder of Stephen Lawrence to justice" would bear fruit. How would he do this?

"I don't want to give notice of our future action," he said. But he hoped "some or all" of the racist thugs responsible would yet be brought to book. "The people who killed Stephen should feel uncomfortable ...



Sir Paul Condon has a 'duty to the people of London' to stay at Scotland Yard PA

The Met has not given up." But it was the third question that sent him scurrying. Since Sir Paul — who made a crusade out of racism right back into the 1980s — had arrived at the Met with the avowed intention of stamping out racism, wasn't the failure of his force on this very issue the most serious indictment of his term of office?

"That's a very fair question," he began, and proceeded to talk about general crime statistics, the fight against terrorism and the policing of major events such as the Greek occupation of the Greek embassy. Then he changed tack.

He felt "an enormous sense of shame at having let down Stephen's parents", he said. Then his answer went to pieces. This was not about competing tragedies — Day in and day out good men and women in the force patrolled the streets of London. There was great complexity in this wonderfully diverse city, he said, scabbled his papers together and rose.

"You haven't answered the question, Sir Paul," came a cry from the ranks. But the Commissioner looked down as if he had spotted something unac-

ceptable about the carpet and, his visage unchanging, moved rapidly from the room. It was one of the shortest press conferences crime reporters could remember him giving.

Considering the gravity of the occasion the brevity was damning. True, his statement had accepted what he had once denied — that the Met was tainted by a racism that ran through its very structure.

And he was prepared to accept the charge of "institutional racism" now that the definition had been widened to include "unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping".

It was true that since last autumn he had instituted changes which meant the reporting of racially motivated crime has risen by 68 per cent, crimes solved by 70 per cent and arrests up by 100 per cent.

He announced more changes to come: random "racism" checks on policemen; creation of a rapid reaction murder squad; and an extensive research project to find what different communities wanted from their police.

But he did not stay to hear a question from any of the black journalists present, leav-

ing it to John Newing, the Chief Constable of Derbyshire who is president of the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo), to handle a query about allegations from a senior black policeman who claimed the Met had learnt nothing from the Lawrence case.

"The report is pretty damning of the Met," said Mr Newing, "and the Commissioner has accepted the criticism." But detailed questions might better be addressed to Paul Wilson, chair of the Black Police Association. Inspector Wilson was diplomatic. "Let's not bog ourselves down in apportioning blame," he said. "Far better that we look for the answers."

A few minutes earlier, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, told the Commons there should be no scapegoats or witch-hunts. For all the fierce criticism and the reiterated tributes to Stephen's parents, no one seemed to take responsibility for the denial of justice to them.

In the end, the only person in the whole sorry saga who has had to pay was Stephen Lawrence — with his life.

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THE LAWRENCE REPORT

'The murder and the failure to

IN 47 CHAPTERS and 335 pages of hard-hitting prose, Sir William Macpherson has taken apart the investigation into the death of Stephen Lawrence in the minutest detail. His report begins with a colour photograph of Stephen.

The outline

IN THE first three chapters, Sir William outlines the murder itself and the scope of his inquiry into it. He states: "We do believe that the debate about racism and racism has been transformed by this inquiry and that the debate thus ignited must be carried forward constructively and with imagination into action."

Stephen's parents

IN CHAPTER four of the report, Sir William turns to Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen, who he describes as "the main spring of this inquiry".

He says: "Their persistence and courage in the face of tragedy and bitter disillusionment and disappointment have been outstanding... their dignity and courtesy have been an example to all throughout."

Sir William records the statements of the Lawrences outlining their hopes for the inquiry. Mr Lawrence said: "I hope that this can be a step towards ensuring that when another tragedy is suffered by the black community the police act responsibly and investigate the crime properly. When a policeman puts his uniform on he should forget all his prejudices. If he cannot do that, then he should not be doing the job because that means that one part of the population is not protected from the likes of those who murdered Stephen."

Mrs Lawrence said: "I would like Stephen to be remembered as a young man who had a future. He was well loved, and had been given the chance to survive maybe he would have been the one to bridge the gap between black and white because he did distinguish between black or white. He saw people as people."

But Sir William Macpherson presents a shocking picture of the "patronising" treatment by the police of Stephen's parents and his best friend Duwayne Brooks. He says: "These extracts, and indeed their full statements show that Neville and Doreen Lawrence feel deeply that they were patronised and side-lined. Together with many others they have an inherent distrust which the police must move fundamentally to overcome."

"Any protestation that Mr and Mrs Lawrence's attitude stems from perception and not reality must be abandoned. Only when the police show movement can they expect response from minority ethnic communities. The shift must be fundamental and may take time. But it must be achieved."

He adds: "We believe that the present Government and society as a whole do have the will to achieve that change. Let us all hope that the opportunity will not be missed. Joint action to achieve it can and must then follow."

Duwayne Brooks

IN CHAPTER five, Sir William shows that the patronising attitude shown to the Lawrence parents was also extended to his friend, Duwayne Brooks, the key witness in the case.

Sir William points out: "Mr Brooks was plainly fortunate to have escaped unharmed physically. The trauma of the attack and the terrible murder of his friend and all that followed, has left him seriously affected and stressed. So much so that his doctors strongly advised that he should not be called as a witness or questioned at this inquiry."

Sir William is highly critical of the treatment of Mr Brooks by the police. He says: "He was a primary victim of the racist at-

tack. He is also the victim of all that has followed, including the conduct of the case and the treatment of himself as a witness and not as a victim."

He said there was no evidence that any officer tried to understand that Mr Brooks needed "close, careful and sensitive treatment".

The report states: "We are driven to the conclusion that Mr Brooks was stereotyped as a young black man exhibiting unpleasant hostility and agitation, who could not be expected to help and whose condition and status simply did not need further examination or understanding. We believe that Mr Brooks' colour and such stereotyping played their part in the collective failure of those involved to treat him properly and according to his needs."

The report concludes: "We do not believe that a young white man in a similar position would have been dealt with in the same way."

Racism

IN CHAPTER six, Sir William reports on the issue of racism which he describes as "central and vital" to the inquiry.

His finding is that despite the protestations of officers in the case that they are not racists, the conclusion that racism played its part in this case is fully justified.

Sir William observes that the "chilling condemnation" by Neville and Doreen Lawrence that "their colour, culture and ethnic origin, and that of their murdered son, have throughout affected the way in which the case has been dealt with and pursued" has sounded through the months of the inquiry.

He concludes that the Lawrences are the victims of institutional racism in the police service, which the report defines as "the collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin. It can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes and behaviour which amount to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness, and racist stereotyping which disadvantage minority ethnic people."

Sir William identifies four areas which suggested that the Lawrence family, directly or indirectly, suffered from the institutional racism of the police.

The first, the report says, was "in the actual investigation including the family's treatment at the hospital, the initial reaction to the victim and witness Duwayne Brooks, the family liaison, the failure of many officers to recognise Stephen's murder as a purely racially motivated crime and the lack of urgency and commitment in some areas of the investigation."

Secondly, the stop and search figures from across the country are seen by the inquiry team as evidence of institutional racism in the police. The report notes that "there remains in our judgment a clear conclusion of racist stereotyping."

Thirdly, the country-wide under-reporting of racist incidents displaying a lack of confidence in the police by minority ethnic communities.

Finally, the failure to train police in race awareness was shown in the fact that "not a single officer questioned before us in 1998 had received any training of significance in racism awareness and race relations throughout the course of his or her career."

According to Sir William, there must be an "unequivocal acceptance" of the problem of institutionalised racism before it can be addressed. He calls on senior officers to recognise, acknowledge and accept the problem.

In what appears to be a reference to Met Commissioner Sir Paul Condon's refusal to accept that his force was institu-



A journalist yesterday collecting a copy of the just-published Macpherson inquiry from the Home Office PA

tionally racist he adds: "Any Chief Officer who feels unable to respond will find it difficult to work in harmony and co-operation with the community in the way that policing by consent demands."

The report accepts that it has heard no evidence of overt racism or discrimination. But it criticises the use of "inappropriate expressions" such as "coloured" or "negro" which it says are "now well known to be offensive" and display "insensitivity and lack of training."

But the report identifies numerous examples of "unwitting racism" by the police, which it said could arise from "lack of understanding, ignorance or mistaken beliefs" or from "patronising words" or "unfamiliarity with cultural traditions."

The report notes: "There can be a collective failure to detect and to outlaw this breed of racism. The police canteen can too easily be its breeding ground."

The report notes that the officers involved in the Lawrence investigation were emphatic that they were not racists but points out that some of them refused to see the racist motive of the murder. Sir William is particularly critical of Detective Sgt John Davidson, who "throughout his evidence made it emphatically clear that he refused to recognise that the attack was purely racist."

Among Sir William's recommendations directly targeting racism in the police are new disciplinary procedures to dismiss officers for racist words or actions and race awareness training for all police staff.

The five suspects

IN CHAPTER seven, Sir William addresses the young men whom he describes as "the five suspects". The report names them as Neil Acourt, Gary Acourt, David Norris, Gary Dobson and Luke Knight.

It states: "These five youths have always been the prime suspects in respect of Stephen Lawrence's murder. Many other names have surfaced in the information reaching the investigation team but these five have always been singled out. In particular, as we have seen, the Acourts and David Norris have featured from the start."

Sir William quotes extracts from the notorious secret video used to film the suspects without their knowledge.

It quotes Neil Acourt saying: "I reckon that every nigger should be chopped up mate and they should be left with nothing but fucking stumps."

David Norris said: "If I was going to kill myself do you know what I'd do? I'd go and kill every black cunt, every Paki, every copper, every mug that I know."

Sir William states: "The whole sequence showed violent racism at its worst, and while one youth may say more than others they plainly all shared the bigotry and the extremes displayed by each other, both in language and in the brandishing and pretended stabbing with knives."

He goes on: "The only true purpose or reason for calling the youths [to the inquiry] at all was to enquire whether their evidence helped us to any conclusions as to the policing of the murder. In that respect the extreme nature of their racism and violent tendencies suggest to us that they should have been 'spotted' for what they were if good intelligence and information had singled them out earlier and detected their evil presence on the estate. Then perhaps they would have been even more obvious targets for early arrest."

Sir William rules out prosecuting the youths for perjury in their evidence to the inquiry.

He states: "Our own judgment, supported by legal advice is that such prosecution should not be proposed by this inquiry. Their evidence was evasive and vague, but that does not mean that it would be possible to prove that they were lying in their factual answers given. This inquiry is not in any event a prosecuting authority."

Senior officers

IN CHAPTERS 12 to 15, Sir William analyses the roles of senior investigating officers in the inquiry.

The criticism is savage. Officers in the original inquiry are also dealt with in individual chapters detailing their failings in the case.

The first senior investigating officer, Detective Supt Ian Crampton, is accused of making a "fundamental error" in his failure to ensure the arrest of suspects in the early stages of the investigation. The report states: "Considerable time elapsed before they were taken into custody and before the unsatisfactory searches of their premises did eventually take place."

It adds: "There was no wall of silence. A vital and fundamental mistake was made in failing to arrest the suspects named... in the information [given] by the morning of 28 April."

Mr Crampton's "flawed" strategic decision not to arrest was fundamental. "Its consequences are plain to see," the report states.

Next to be criticised is Mr

Crampton's number two, Detective Superintendent Brian Weeden, who is said to have failed both Stephen's parents and the family solicitor in the way he handled the investigation.

The report says that he "lost patience" with the Lawrences and solicitor Imran Khan and he is also held partly responsible for the undermining of the evidence of the key witness Duwayne Brooks.

Det Insp Ben Bullock, the only officer from the investigation who is facing internal disciplinary proceedings, is accused of failing "to process properly vital information" given to the team by witness James Grant. The report says of Bullock "he was passive, and not up to his job."

Det Chief Supt William Isles is blamed for "allowing himself to go along with" the "weak and unenterprising" decisions of his superiors. The report adds: "He failed to supervise and to manage effectively this highly sensitive murder investigation."

Det Sergeant John Davidson is accused by the report of "unwitting racism" and criticised for his "dogged refusal to accept that the motive for Stephen Lawrence's murder was racist."

The Met police commissioner is not directly criticised in the report although Sir William makes a pointed reference to the need for senior officers to face up to the institutional racism in the police, something which Sir Paul would not acknowledge in his evidence.

Surveillance
IN CHAPTER 21, Sir William covers the use of identification parades, which he criticises for being "lax", and the failure to act on witness evidence that one of the attackers was "fair-haired".

The report states: "No line of inquiry was established to pursue the possible identification of the fair-haired or blond offender. There was no co-ordination or analysis of the various descriptions given. The fact that one of the attackers was fair-haired should have been reflected in decisions made as to the elimination of suspects. The failure to deal logically with this line of inquiry must be another source of criticism of the SIO and his deputy."

Arrest of suspects
CHAPTERS 23 to 25 deal with the arrests of the suspects and the collection of exhibits and scientific evidence.

It notes that during the raid on the Acourts home "a knife was found behind a TV set. In the padlocked bedroom a Gurkha type knife was found. There was a shoulder holster in a cupboard. There were knives in Jamie Acourt's bedroom and an air gun type revolver."

Officers are criticised for their failure to retain as an exhibit a piece of "apparently blood-stained" tissue found by an officer during a search.

Parents' treatment
In chapter 26, Sir William returns to the subject of the patronising treatment of the

Lawrence parents. Their treatment prompts Sir William to call for a radical overhaul of the way police liaise with the families of victims of race attacks and the way they handle witnesses in such crimes.

Sir William writes: "Plainly Mr and Mrs Lawrence were not dealt with or treated as they should have been. Their reaction and their attitude after their son's murder were those of a grieving family. The fact that they were in their eyes and to their perception patronised and inappropriately treated exhibits plain but unintentional failure to treat them appropriately and professionally within their own culture and as a black grieving family."

"DS Bevan and DC Holden will for ever deny that they are racist or that the colour, culture or ethnic origin of the Lawrence family played any part in the failure of family liaison. We are bound to say that the conclusion which we reach is inescapable. Inappropriate behaviour and patronising attitudes towards this black family were the product and a manifestation of unwitting racism at work."

Sir William identifies an "atmosphere of mistrust" between the police, the family and their lawyers.

Supt William Islesley
Chapter 27 looks at the role of Detective Chief Supt William Islesley, one of the senior officers on the investigation and the Crime Manager for the Area where the murder took place. The report criticises DCS Islesley for allowing "himself to go along with the weak and unenterprising decisions made by Mr Crampton and Mr Weeden in the very early days, so that the opportunities which an early arrest might have produced were missed."

It states: "There was in our opinion failure to supervise and to manage effectively and imaginatively the highly sensitive murder investigation to the degree required by Mr Islesley's position as Crime Manager for the Area."

ays was subject to a shocking lack of control. It states: "No wonder Mr and Mrs Lawrence and the community perceive, with justification, that the management of the case was deficient. DS Flook's attitude to Mr and Mrs Lawrence and to their solicitor... must result in the conclusion that racist prejudice, stereotyping and insensitivity played its part in the lack of bite and energy devoted to the activities of the Incident Room. Unwitting racism was at work."

Sir William's comments on the failings in carrying out suitable surveillance of the suspects are even more damning. He states that the "full team" surveillance on the Acourts home at 102 Bournbrook Road, was limited to less than two hours.

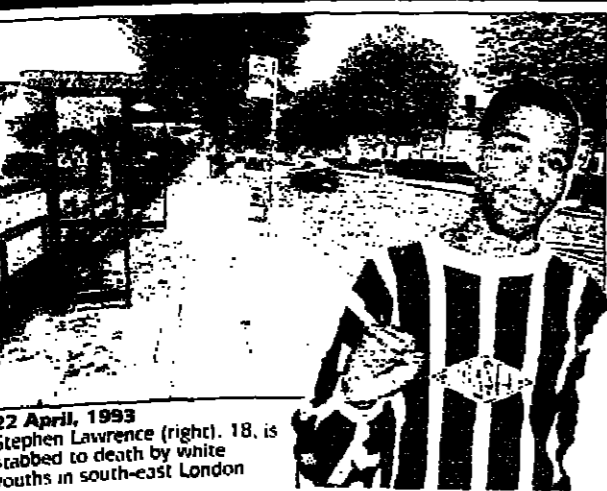
When Jamie Acourt was seen leaving the house with a black binliner, the police photographer was on his own and unable to follow.

"There was no means of following him because there was no communication and because the surveillance team was not on parade by that time. This shows a gross lack of planning and indeed of common sense," says Sir William.

He adds: "It appears that no other surveillance of any kind was ever mooted or carried out. So that the operation was limited and poorly planned and executed. The whole history of this surveillance reveals inefficiency and incompetence."

Sir William takes a dim view of other police surveillance activities which were deemed more important at the time. He said: "The use of the surveillance team to observe a young black man suspected of theft in apparent priority to surveillance of the Stephen Lawrence suspects is remarkable. No explanation of this 'priority' has ever been given."

SIX TRAUMATIC YEARS IN THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE: FROM THE MURDER AT A BUS STOP IN ELTHAM AND A BUNGLED INVESTIGATION...



22 April, 1993
Stephen Lawrence (right), 18, is stabbed to death by white youths in south-east London

29 July, 1993
Neil Acourt, then 17, and Luke Knight, 16, are released from custody after the Crown Prosecution Service drops murder charges against them saying there is insufficient evidence.

April, 1994
The Lawrence family launches a private prosecution against five accused youths.

September, 1995
Charges against Jamie Acourt and David Norris are dropped because of insufficient evidence.

25 April, 1996
Neil Acourt, Luke Knight and Gary Dobson are cleared at the Old Bailey after identification evidence against them is ruled inadmissible.

13 February, 1997
An inquest jury returns a verdict that Stephen was unlawfully killed in a racist attack by five youths.

14 February, 1997
The Daily Mail names the five suspects as Stephen Lawrence's "murderers".

31 July, 1997
Home Secretary Jack Straw announces a public inquiry headed by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, a retired High Court judge.

24 March, 1998
Edmund Lawson QC, counsel to the inquiry, opens the hearings of the inquiry with a description of the police inquiry as "seriously flawed".

30 March
Neville Lawrence says he was told by a visitor to his house that the suspects were seen washing blood off themselves on the night of the murder.

8 May
Michael Mansfield QC, counsel for the Lawrences, alleges there was a link between a police officer and Clifford

Norris, a notorious criminal and father of one of the five suspects.

13 May
Ian Crampton, who led the initial investigation, admits that he should have made arrests within 48 hours.

14 May
The suspects announce that they plan to seek leave to apply for judicial review of the decision to call them to give evidence at the inquiry.

27 May
Brian Weeden,

head of the murder squad for 14 months, admits that until recently he did not understand the legal grounds on which police can make arrests.

11 June
Neville and Doreen Lawrence (below) give evidence.

17 June
Speaking via a high-ranking officer, Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Met, apologises to the family for the incompetence of the investigation.

18 June
Lord Justice Simon Brown dismisses the

inquiry watches a videotape showing suspects brandishing knives and expressing violent racist views.

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سورة من القرآن

convict is an affront to society'

SIR WILLIAM MACPHERSON'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Barker Review

Chapter 28 covers the controversial Barker Review, which was the Metropolitan Police's own inquiry into the Lawrence investigation.

The report criticises the author Detective Chief Supt John Barker for deliberately not reaching conclusions which might "undermine the confidence of the (investigating) team".

He also took what Sir William describes as the "clear and unforgivable" step of considering writing two versions of his review, one honest and one which omitted "any adverse references to the investigation". The latter would have been provided to the defence solicitors.

Sir William is fiercely critical of the final review.

He writes: "Mr Barker did plainly in our opinion pull his punches and he produced a report which simply gives no proper overview of the early days of the investigation and which contains no criticism, although there was much to be criticised."

Sir William is also critical of senior Met officers who were prepared to accept the veracity of the review.

He said: "At the very least the paucity of information offered reflects a continuing lack of open and meaningful communication with the Lawrence family and their representatives. There is a lack of rigour in the reception of the review document first and foremost by Mr Osland but also by those above him including the Commissioner himself."

He adds: "Our overall conclusion is that Mr Barker's review must be condemned. We do not find evidence that its inadequacies were the result of corruption or collusion. Mr Barker's unquestioning acceptance and repetition of the criticisms of the Lawrence family and their solicitor are to be deplored. Others took the review 'as it was set out' in the Commissioner's words, and all allowed themselves to be misled."

Senior officers

Chapters 29 to 32, deal individually with the roles of other senior officers in the case.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Osland is criticised for his poor relationship with the Lawrence family and his acceptance of the flawed Barker review.

The report states: "[Osland] had faults in connection with the Stephen Lawrence murder investigation and in particular the relationship with the family which were attributable to his readiness to accept without qualification or inquiry that which was told to him by his own officers and by Mr Barker in connection with the unfortunate and flawed review. A more critical examination of that review would have revealed its failure."

Assistant Commissioner Ian Johnston is criticised for a statement which he made to the Lawrence parents, which gave an unreasonably favourable description of the police investigation into their son's murder.

The report said: "Mr Johnston should not have allowed that statement to include palpably inaccurate statements about the first investigation. Also racist crimes do have their special features and do have to be specially addressed."

Second inquiry

Chapters 33 to 35 cover the Second Metropolitan Police investigation into Stephen's murder. New officers drafted in to work on the case are praised by the report for their acknowledgement that it was a racist murder.

Commander Perry Nove, now the Commissioner of the City of London Police, is singled out for his creditable role in the later end of the inquiry.

The report states: "He did his best...to salvage the sorry situation which met him in

THE SEVENTY recommendations of the report form nothing less than a blueprint for the eradication of racism in the British criminal justice system. Sir William Macpherson and his team make clear that confidence in the police among minority ethnic communities is now at such a 'low ebb' that "it threatens the ability of the police services to police by consent in all areas of their work, not simply in the policing of racist incidents and crimes".

In strong language, Sir William warns the Government and police chiefs that "nothing less" will satisfy him than that "the opportunity for radical thinking and root-and-branch action is seized".

He calls for the police to be made subject to the "full force" of race relations legislation, meaning that police chiefs would be "vicariously liable for the acts and omissions of their officers".

The Freedom of Information Act should also apply to the police, he says, meaning that the public could obtain police documents including the

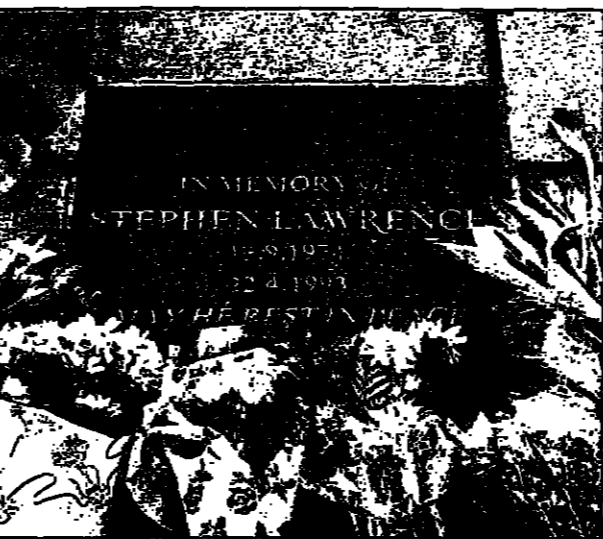
reports of investigating officers into public complaints, unless their disclosure would cause "substantial harm" to the public interest.

The police, and the Metropolitan Police in particular, should be subject to more rigorous inspection involving lay inspectors. A new Metropolitan Police Authority, similar to the authorities that exist in other police areas, should be set up with powers to appoint all senior officers.

Sir William also attempts to tackle the root causes of racism by calling for an amendment to the national curriculum "aimed at valuing cultural diversity and preventing racism, in order better to reflect the needs of a diverse society".

His report calls for the publication of school league tables that show the number of racist incidents and the numbers of children excluded, by ethnic group.

Sir William's far-reaching proposals are partly based on a broad definition of a racist incident as "any incident which is perceived to be racist



by the victim or any other person" and are intended to identify and eliminate racism in the police, the legal system and the classroom.

Sir William's primary recommendation is that the Government should acknowledge the magnitude of the problem of police discrimination by establishing a "ministerial priority" that would pledge "to

increase trust and confidence in policing amongst minority ethnic communities".

He calls for a new approach to the prosecution of racist crime whereby the Crown Prosecution Service should assume that it is always in the public interest to prosecute such offences. Where race is an element in a prosecution it should be made known at all

stages of the case and should never be excluded through "plea bargaining". All racist language or behaviour might be considered as a crime under an amendment to existing legislation, Sir William suggests.

He also calls for the possession of offensive weapons - as seen in the secret surveillance video of the Lawrence suspects - to be made an offence, even if it occurs in a private place.

Sir William would like to see sweeping changes introduced for the disciplining of racist police officers. He recommends that any racist words or acts by an officer which are proven, should "usually merit dismissal". He also calls for complaints of police racism to be investigated independently and that officers should be subject to possible disciplinary action for at least five years after retirement.

Sir William states: "Investigation of police officers by their own or another police service is widely regarded as unjust, and does not inspire public confidence."

The report identifies stop-and-search by the police as a key area of concern and recommends that traffic stops be included in future statistics on the subject as they are also often seen as discriminatory by minority ethnic communities.

Sir William believes that the inadequacies in police racial awareness training identified in his report mean that all police staff, including civilians, must be "trained in racism awareness and valuing cultural diversity".

The failure of officers to administer first aid at the murder scene inspired Sir William to insist that such training for all "public contact" officers should be reviewed and revised to "ensure that they have basic skills to apply first aid".

The report's other recommendations include a new Home Office code of practice for recording racist crimes, new initiatives to recruit and retain police officers from minority ethnic communities, and improved police systems for the handling of witnesses, victims and their families.

adequately the needs of a diverse multi cultural and multi ethnic society. Secondly the number of exclusions from schools which were apparently disproportionate to the ethnic mix of the pupils.

"There is little confidence amongst minority ethnic communities in the present [complaints] system."

Overall they conclude: "The message is uncompromising. A new atmosphere of mutual confidence and trust must be created. The onus to being the process which will create that new atmosphere lies firmly and clearly with the police."

But it adds: "blanket condemnation of the police service is both unfair and unproductive."

Conclusions

Chapter 46, contains Sir William's conclusions and summary.

He notes: "There is no doubt but that there were fundamental [police] errors. The investigation was marred by a combination of professional incompetence, institutional racism and a failure of leadership by senior officers. A failed [Met police] review failed to expose these inadequacies. The second investigation could not salvage the faults of the first investigation."

Sir William highlights the failings in First Aid, saying: "no police officer did anything by way of first aid, apart from the small amount of testing to see whether Stephen Lawrence was still breathing and whether his pulse was beating."

The initial police response, Sir William said, was shocking. He writes: "We were astonished at the lack of direction and organisation during the vital first hours after the murder. Lack of imagination and properly co-ordinated action and planning which might have led to the discovery and arrest of suspects was conspicuous by its absence."

Family liaison, Sir William said, was deplorable. "From the first contact with police officers at the hospital, and thereafter, Mr and Mrs Lawrence were treated with insensitivity and lack of sympathy...Mr and Mrs Lawrence were not dealt with or treated as they should have been. They were patronised."

The failure to remove from the scene south London criminal and father of one of the suspects, Clifford Norris, was "unexplained and incomprehensible".

The Surveillance Operation was "ill-planned, badly carried out and inadequately documented".

The Incident Room was "inadequately staffed". There were "clear breaches of the Codes of Practice" governing identity parades.

Sir William is scathing of searches carried out at the homes of suspects. "Information expressly suggested that knives might be concealed under floorboards. There is no evidence that a single floorboard was removed during any of the searches."

Officers at the scene of the murder showed "insensitive and racist stereotypical behaviour", assuming that there had been a fight. Some police were patronising in their dealings with the family, others used "inappropriate and offensive language". At least five officers involved in the investigation "simply refused to accept that this was purely a racist murder."

The report notes: "Racism awareness training was almost non-existent at every level."

The Barker Review is condemned. "There can be no excuses for such a series of errors, failures, and lack of direction and control. Each failure was compounded. Failure to acknowledge and to detect errors resulted in them being effectively concealed. Only now at this inquiry have they been laid bare."

May 1994. That he was unable to achieve a successful prosecution was certainly not his fault. By the summer of 1994 the case was, as things turned out, beyond redemption."

London racism

Chapters 35 and 36 deal with racism on a wider scale in south-east London and include evidence from witnesses linked to the Met Police's own Racial Incident Unit at Plumstead police station and local anti-racist groups.

Canteen culture

Chapter 37, is the evidence of Police Sgt Peter Solley, the Community Divisional Liaison Officer for the Plumstead Police Division, where the murder took place.

The report notes: "Psgt Solley accepted that there was a 'canteen culture' of racism within the MPS but he indicated that it is his belief that things were changing considerably from the situation of the 70s and 80s. Psgt Solley appreciated that the perception within the black community was that the culture still rules."

Sainsbury's row

Chapter 38, praises the actions of PC Alan Fisher who was called to an incident in Sainsbury's car park at Woolwich, south London, on 30 April 1993, when Mrs Lawrence was involved in a dispute with some white women in which she was racially abused and threatened with a brick.

PC Fisher's approach to the crime is described as "positive steps in the right direction".

CPS role

Chapter 39 addresses the role of the Crown Prosecution Service in deciding whether or not to prosecute the five suspects.

"The decision to discontinue the prosecution was taken on 28 July 1993 by Mr Youngerwood [CPS lawyer] himself, and the decision was communicated to Mr Weeden and Mr Bullock [Met police officers]."

It goes on to say: "It should be noted that there was never any question in 1993-94 of the other suspects being charged, since in truth there was no evidence against any of them to justify prosecution. None of them had been identified at any parade, and there was no other evidence to establish their involvement in this terrible crime."

It continues: "On 27 July 1993 Mr Mitchell telephoned Mr Medwynter and informed him that having read the committal

papers there was not, in his words, 'a cat in hell's chance of a conviction'."

"It should be observed that Mr Bullock and Detective Constable Freeman composed a strong memorandum which was submitted to the CPS inviting the prosecutors to reconsider the case in relation to the Witham brothers and seeking its reinstatement."

"As has been pointed out this action by Mr Bullock is inconsistent with any suggestion that he was 'going soft' on David Norris."

"It should be added that we ourselves have some concern about the CPS decision not to revive the Witham case. There was evidence that David Norris and Jamie Acourt had been involved in violence, and a knife and truncheon had been used. It does appear to us that the weight and quality of evidence has first to be assessed by the CPS, and that the judgment of the relevant CPS officer is involved."

"But it must certainly be in the public interest to ensure that prosecutions follow where there has been violence and dangerous weapons have been used, provided that the evidential test is met."

It continues: "The crucial evidence on behalf of the CPS was in fact given by Mr Youngerwood, since he was the man who had to make the relevant decisions. He had many years of experience as a solicitor both with the MPS, with whom he worked for 16 years, and in the CPS in its various existences. When he gave evidence he was retired, but he had been involved throughout with the Stephen Lawrence murder investigations. He was an impressive witness, and it was plain to the inquiry that he had been worried and anxious about the case and the decisions he had felt bound to make."

The report goes on to outline Mr Brooks' confusing identification during a parade of suspects.

"We fully understand Mr Youngerwood's reasoning and his decision, and we believe that his conclusion was correct...Mr Youngerwood was criticised by Mr Mansfield [Lawrence family lawyer] on the basis that he was taking over the role of the Judge and jury, and that he ought to have allowed the case to proceed. We do not agree with this criticism. Mr Youngerwood was a highly experienced and responsible solicitor, and it was his duty to reach a decision bearing in mind all relevant matters...it

seems to us that he reached careful and reasoned conclusions."

The report continues: "The way in which the discontinuance was brought to the notice of Mr and Mrs Lawrence was most regrettable...[they] heard through the media."

"The reason given is that the decision was made only at the eleven hour...this is in our opinion on true excuse, since there must have been channels available in order to ensure that the family were found and told."

Committal

Chapter 40 concerns the main committal hearing against four of the suspects at Bechamsh Magistrates' Court in which the magistrate considered whether there was sufficient evidence to commit them to trial.

"Mr Mansfield was himself plainly doubtful about Witness B [a key witness] and his evidence."

"In his evidence Witness B had repeatedly said that he knew David Norris, and had known him for some years...the prosecution decided that it would be wise to hold an identification parade in order to test Witness B's evidence."

"Witness B surveyed the parade - and probably to the consternation of the prosecution he failed to pick out David Norris, but picked out a member of the public as being the David Norris who was well known to him and who had been near the scene of the murder."

Mr Mansfield later dropped his request for charges against Jamie Acourt.

Later...the magistrate gave his ruling...he found that there was sufficient evidence to put Neil Acourt and Luke Knight on trial for the murder of Stephen Lawrence. David Norris was not committed for trial. Thus both he and Jamie Acourt, if viable evidence is available, can be prosecuted again."

The trial

Chapter 41 relates to The Central Criminal Court Trial.

"The trial of Neil Acourt, Luke Knight and Gary Dobson opened on 17 April 1996 at the Central Criminal Court (the Old Bailey in London)."

Mr Mansfield made a short opening speech and two witnesses gave evidence but could not identify the defendants because they had not seen them clearly.

On the question of Mr Brooks' evidence the report

states: "It should be said that Mr Justice Curtis [the judge] was careful to focus on the most basic problem with Mr Brooks' evidence, namely the absolute confusion apparent from his own evidence and form the conflicting descriptions and evidence given by Mr Brooks from time to time."

"In our judgment anybody reading all the evidence put before Mr Justice Curtis could properly reach only one conclusion, namely, that 'where recognition or identification is concerned he simply does not know in ordinary parlance whether he is on his head or his heels'."

"There simply was no satisfactory evidence available. Where this is the position the Courts cannot change the law or the rules out of sympathy or upon suspicion."

The inquest

Chapter 42 covers the full inquest first held before a jury in December 1993.

Mr Mansfield called for an adjournment saying there were "fresh witnesses" and "dramatic" new evidence.

"When the private prosecution went ahead it does not appear that there was new 'dramatic' or 'specific' evidence available to Mr and Mrs Lawrence's legal team other than that which had become available in the first months of the investigation," notes the report.

The inquest was adjourned to February 1997 during which Mr Brooks gave evidence of the attack. The coroner called the five suspects to the inquest, but the report says: "As it turned out nobody gained anything by calling these witnesses because they simply refused to answer virtually all questions."

The coroner told the jury there was only one available verdict - unlawful killing. "When the jury returned from retirement that was the verdict given. They added the details required and indicated that they wished to say that Stephen Lawrence was killed in a completely unprovoked racist attack by five white youths."

On 13 February 1997 Mrs Lawrence made a formal complaint to the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Imran Khan's role

Chapter 43 looks at the role of Imran Khan the solicitor representing the Lawrence family from the very start.

"The presence of a solicitor may well have been unfamiliar to DS Bevan and DC Holden [officers dealing with family li-

aison] in the circumstances. But the family is perfectly entitled to us a solicitor if they wish, and every step must be taken to fit in with the family's wishes and the family's arrangements."

Mr Khan described later correspondence with the police as "sniper fire". The report notes: "It is unusual that requests should be made in somewhat peremptory fashion and in legal language so early in the investigation of a murder. But it is not for the police to tell a family and their lawyer how to behave."

It says of Mr and Mrs Lawrence: "They were suspicious of the police and they believed that the police were acting with insensitivity and indeed were harassing young people who were known to Stephen Lawrence by suggesting that he might have been involved in some sort of gang. Furthermore they believed that the questions...implied that Stephen had been involved in some nefarious activity on the night of his murder."

The police's approach is described as "insensitive" in the report.

It concludes: "It would be wrong to criticise Mr Khan, since he was doing what the family wished him to do and they had confidence in the methods which he was employing. But it adds: "Mr Khan was ready to criticise and to contact the media more than might be expected."

It concludes: "The result of the unsuccessful prosecution was that the three men who were acquitted can never be tried again..."

"There is no doubt but that Mr Khan has supported Mr and Mrs Lawrence with determination and with vigour. Both he and they have been proved right as to many of the criticisms of the failure of the police investigation. It is a bitter disappointment to all that nobody has been successfully prosecuted for this terrible murder."

Role of PCA

Chapter 44 covers The Police Complaints Authority.

Following the complaint by Mrs Lawrence a team of Kent officers carried out a nine month investigation.

The report agrees with inquiry's criticism of decisions made by senior officers, the family liaison, and the first investigation. But adds: "We do not agree with the Kent/PCA conclusion as to the actions taken or not taken during the first night, the initial response

to the MPS at the scene.

"As to racism we must indicate that in our view the approach of the PCA/Kent investigation was incomplete. Many officers were asked directly whether racism had an impact upon their activities in the case. Predictably they replied in strong terms denying such impact...we cannot accept the conclusion that there was no evidence to support the allegations of racist conduct".

No over racism, other than perhaps the use of inappropriate language, was evident. But the conclusion that there was a 'collective failure' to provide an appropriate and professional service to the Lawrence family because of their colour, culture and ethnic origin is in our view inescapable."

It lists two other concerns, firstly that the five officers who could have faced disciplinary charges had reached retirement age and therefore could escape any potential punishment. It also questions "the perception is that such investigations of police by police may not be seen to result in independent and fair scrutiny and that justice is not seen to be done by such investigation."

Part two

Chapter 45 is about Part Two of the Inquiry.

Public hearings were held in Ealing/Southall, Manchester, Tower Hamlets, Bradford, Bristol and Birmingham.

"Wherever we went we were met with inescapable evidence which highlighted the lack of trust which exists between the police and the minority ethnic communities."

"At every location there was a striking difference between the positive descriptions of policy initiatives by senior police officers, and the negative expressions from the minority communities, who clearly felt themselves to be discriminated against by the police and others."

On stop and search figures it says: "The majority of police officers who testified before us accepted that an element of the disparity was the result of discrimination."

On racist incidents it says: "The consistent message given to us was that the police and other agencies did not or would not realise the impact of less serious, non crime incidents upon the minority ethnic communities."

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...TO A JUDICIAL INQUIRY WHICH CRITICISED THE METROPOLITAN POLICE CHIEF AND CONCLUDED WITH 70 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

judicial review application, but says the five may not be asked whether they killed Stephen.

23 June The Met denies making a systematic attempt to coach officers giving evidence to the inquiry.

29 June The suspects' appearance (Neil Acourt pictured right) at the inquiry is marked by violent scenes as Muslim activists try to enter the building.

30 June The suspects are pelted with bottles after evasive and implausible evidence.

1 July A senior Crown Prosecution Service lawyer accuses the Lawrences of wrecking future prospects of their sons' killers being brought to justice.

17 July Imran Khan, the Lawrence's solicitor, tells the inquiry that he regretted not being firmer with the police.

17 September The final submissions are made to Part 1 of the inquiry.

24 September Part 2 opens with a submission from the Home Office.

1 October Sir Paul Condon repeatedly denies that there is institutional racism in his force.

13 October The inquiry begins its regional tour with a public hearing in Manchester. Chief Constable David Wilmot says he recognises the problem of institutional racism within Greater Manchester Police.

12 January, 1999 Detective Inspector Ben Bullock, second-in-command of the inquiry team, will be the only police officer to face serious disciplinary charges for the bungled investigation, it emerges.

13 November The inquiry ends with a public hearing in Birmingham.

24 January Dwayne Brooks, who was with Stephen when he was murdered, tells The Independent that he blames himself for his friend's death.

24 January Michael Mansfield, QC (left), and Imran Khan will face criticism in the inquiry report over the ill-fated private prosecution. The Independent reveals. It also emerges that Detective Superintendent Albert Patrick, the officer heading the investigation into the murder has been moved because of a disciplinary

Investigation and replaced by Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve.

2 February The parents of the five suspects attack the media of their sons.

12 February Police believe that two of the suspects, Gary Dobson and Luke Knight, are probably innocent of Stephen's murder. The Independent reveals.

15 February Sir Paul Condon (left) is personally criticised in the inquiry report. The Independent reveals.

20 February The suspects' mothers claim in a radio interview that the five have been victimised by the media. The Daily Mail challenges them again to sue for libel. The Government obtains a High Court injunction to prevent publication of details of the report after leaked extracts appear in The Sunday Telegraph.

22 February Jack Straw orders formal investigation into the leak. Sir Paul Condon and the Lawrences see the report at the Home Office.

24 February Publication of inquiry report.

Lottery Scandal

Could it have been you?

The lottery begins at birth. The odds are, one in three babies will be born into poverty.

This is not the developing world we're talking about. This is here, now, in Britain.

The downward spiral that leaves thousands of children excluded from society is random, relentless and no fault of their own.

Where you happen to be born can have a profound effect on the rest of your life.

The highest concentration of disadvantaged children can be found in only 59 local authority districts in the country. They may be no-go areas to some, but they can be no-exit areas for the young people who have to grow up there.

How can we gamble with the future of children this way?

With 3.3 million existing in families with less than half the average national income, children are now the largest group caught in the poverty trap.

So where does the buck stop?

With government? Or with each and every one of us?

The Children's Society believes we all have a responsibility to the next generation.

And with your help, we can do something to redress the balance between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'.

When the disadvantaged become the disappeared

Every year thousands of children fall through the net.

In the local areas, where these children are concentrated, more than 25% of them will begin life as underweight babies, they have a 30% higher mortality rate and they are twice as likely to die in childhood accidents.

These same children are disadvantaged in education. They can become disruptive in class. Unable to cope, schools exclude them in their thousands - 150,000 exclusions in a single year. The majority are children from poorer homes.

Without a decent start in life, many young people never catch up.

Truancy in these deprived districts is currently running at four times the national average.

While one in four pupils at secondary schools near rundown housing estates, leave at sixteen without a single GCSE, five times the national average.

The vast majority of underage pregnancies can be traced back to the same areas.

4,700 girls of school age fell pregnant in 1998 - more than any other country in Europe.

Uneducated, unhappy young people will buck the system when they feel abandoned by it.

Many turn to crime. And pay the price.

Britain locked up 11,000 teenagers in 1998. That's a 40% increase in just five years - a depressing European record.

A staggering 43,000 children run away each year.

Life on the streets can be desperate and dangerous, with the real risk of being caught up with drugs and prostitution, simply to survive.



Beating the odds

Many of the problems children face are complex and interlinked.

The way we see it, they demand an holistic approach.

There is no quick fix. But there is progress to be proud of. Last year The Children's Society helped nearly 40,000 children, directly.

We are the only national charity working with youngsters on remand in prison.

We were the first to open a refuge for those at risk on the streets, the first to develop programmes in primary schools to proactively prevent exclusions and the first to introduce family centres.

Whilst our resources are modest, the impact we make on children's lives is not.

Helping them realise their full potential, enables them to act as catalysts for change within their own neighbourhood.

The Children's Society is their advocate, advisor, friend.

"When Mum left we stayed with Dad. He couldn't get work so they took our home. Social Services put us in one of them bed and breakfast places. Dad and my brother were upstairs, I was on another floor. It was horrible. The guy in the next room started touching me. One night he tried to rape me. They were going to put me and my brother in care. It was the people at The Children's Society that stopped it. They talked to me lots about what happened. And they helped us get a flat. Life savers, that's what Dad calls them."

Karen aged 14

As a Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales, we reach out unconditionally to children when they are at their most vulnerable.

And they are nearer than you think.

The vast majority of you live within a short car ride of real poverty. To see exactly how close you are to the most deprived areas in England, Scotland and Wales, you can phone for our Lottery Scandal Map.

Being born in the wrong place can extinguish every opportunity a child might have in life.

Which is why your support is invaluable. By helping to fund our work, you will be helping those children who have never had a decent chance.

It shouldn't be a lottery.

Help us put it right.

Please call now for your free copy of our Lottery Scandal Map or to make a donation. Thank you.

0845 600 4400

www.the-childrens-society.org.uk



The Children's Society

A Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales
Room 229, Edward Rudolf House, Margery Street,
London WC1X 0JL
Charity Registration No. 221124



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FIVE OFFICERS WHO BEAR THE MAIN SHARE OF THE BLAME



DETECTIVE INSPECTOR BEN BULLOCK: The second-in-command of the Lawrence case faces seven charges of neglect. The Police Complaints Authority say he displayed "considerable indifference" when an informant named five youths a day after the murder, and failed to call in the witness protection team when informants were threatened.



DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT BRIAN WEEDON: Headed the investigation for 18 months until he retired from the force in 1994. Only met the Lawrence family a year after the murder. Accused by the PCA of neglect of duties. Det Supt Weedon said that he never arrested any of the suspects because he was playing a "waiting game".



DETECTIVE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT RODERICK BARKER: Former head of the Flying Squad who wrote the internal police review of the investigation. Did not include criticism in the report because it would have "damaged morale". Sir William Macpherson said his report was "indefensible". Accused by PCA of neglect of duty but retired in October 1997.



DETECTIVE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT WILLIAM ILSEY: A senior investigating officer. Criticised during the inquiry as unprofessional. He made his name handling gangland killings and high-profile cases and retired in March 1995. His sensitivity was questioned after Mrs Lawrence claimed he snubbed her attempts to tell him the names of the five suspects.



DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT IAN CRAMPTON: He was the man in charge of the Stephen Lawrence murder investigation for the first 72 hours. He was severely criticised during the inquiry and he eventually admitted that "with hindsight" he should have arrested the five suspects much earlier. He retired in July 1995.

Litany of errors by bungling police

BEHIND THE scandal of the failure to catch Stephen Lawrence's killers lies an epic tale of incompetence, a catalogue of mistakes and lost opportunities, and a police culture that, at some level, holds black life cheap.

Stephen Lawrence was a gifted and extrovert 18-year-old with a close family and a wide circle of friends. He was studying for A-levels and wanted to become an architect. He was killed as he waited for a bus home in April 1993 with a friend, Duwayne Brooks, with whom he had spent the evening.

The murder took place in Eltham, a mainly white suburb of south-east London that is regarded by many residents as the "frontline" against the migration of black people from the inner city. There had been two racist killings there in recent years.

The first police officers arrived on the scene to find Stephen, who had been stabbed twice in the chest, bleeding to death on the pavement, and Duwayne peeing up and down in an agitated state.

None of the officers administered first aid; nor, despite Duwayne pointing out the direction in which the gang had fled, did they launch a proper search for Stephen's assailants.

Although it seemed likely that the killers lived locally, officers did not conduct house-to-house inquiries because they thought it was too late to wake people up. The only people seen behaving suspiciously that night were five white youths who drove past the murder scene twice, laughing and jeering. But although a call was put out over the police radio, the car was not stopped for a week.

It was later established that its occupants had included two violent racists convicted in connection with the murder in 1991 of a black boy, Rolan Adams. Perhaps it was coincidence that drew them to the spot where Stephen was killed.

Meanwhile, at the Brook Hospital, in Shooters Hill, where Stephen had been taken, relations between police and his parents got off to a disastrous start. Neville and Doreen Lawrence say that no officers spoke to them at the hospital. Inspector Ian Little begs to differ. According to his account, he approached them outside the resuscitation room and said: "We've got a young lad in there. He's dead, we don't know who he is, but we'd like to clarify that point. It's not your son, then all well and good, but we do need to know."

In the succeeding days, the relationship between police and the family broke down completely. The Lawrences say they were treated as gullible simpletons by John Bevan and Linda Holden, the two liaison officers assigned to the family, and given next to no information about the progress of the murder inquiry.

The two officers demanded to know the identity of friends and relations who were in the Lawrences' house when they visited. Their attempts to investigate Stephen's background and character only added to his parents' perception that, as far as police were concerned, a young black man must have been up to no good.

Over the next two days, detectives - who were later to complain that they came up against a "wall of silence" in the local community - received 39 tips from 26 anonymous and named informants. The same names came up time and again: Jamie



KATHY MARKS

Acourt, Neil Acourt, David Norris, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight. The youths were said to be members of a local gang that carried knives and had been involved in previous violent attacks.

These five youths could have been arrested within 48 hours of the murder. Their houses could have been searched, identification parades could have been held while memories were still fresh.

Instead, Detective Superintendent Ian Crampton, who was in charge for the first three days, decided to delay arrests. His successor, Detective Superintendent Brian Weedon, who then led the investigation for 15 months, did the same.

Poor judgment alone was not to blame, Det Supt Weedon has admitted he had such a



Nelson Mandela: Met the Lawrences in London

shaky grasp of criminal law that he believed he needed hard evidence, rather than reasonable grounds for suspicion, to make arrests.

Eight other possible suspects were prematurely eliminated, according to the Macpherson report. These included Blue Stuart, a relative of the Acourts, and Michael Bunn, a friend of theirs, as well as Bradley and Scott Lamb, the Acourts' elder twin half-brothers.

While detectives bungled and procrastinated, evidence may have been removed under the noses of a police surveillance team watching the Acourts' home. Members of the team twice saw dustbin bags that apparently contained clothes being taken away, but were unable to alert the incident room because they had no radios or mobile telephones.

Four of the five suspects lived locally; they were teenagers and likely to boast about their exploits. There were plenty of potential witnesses among the young people on the local council estates and a few were questioned.

The witnesses were young, vulnerable and anxious. Detective Sergeant John Davidson, a tough, middle-aged Scot, was the officer dispatched to win their confidence. Most refused to cooperate. Some of their parents even threatened to sue the police for harassment.

A fortnight after the murder, Det Supt Weedon finally authorised arrests, on the same day that the Lawrences met President Nelson Mandela, who was visiting London. The Macpherson report says that these "outside pressures" probably influenced his decision.

Officers who searched the suspects' homes had been briefed that the youths were known to hide knives under floorboards. Not a single floorboard was removed during the searches. The interviews with the five were cursory. Jamie Acourt's lasted six minutes.

Astonishingly, the only fruit of the surveillance operation - a photograph showing Dobson with Norris - was not given to detectives interviewing Dobson, who denied knowing Norris. Witnesses who attended identification parades were left in a room together, in a flagrant breach of procedure.

The result of this saga of sluggishness and ineptitude was that in July 1993, when the Lawrences were in Jamaica burying their son, they learnt that the Crown Prosecution Service had dropped all charges, citing lack of evidence.

And that, as far as Britain's finest police force is concerned, would have been that, were it not for the fact that Neville and Doreen Lawrence are possessed of a singular courage and tenacity.

They suspected that the investigation had gone badly wrong. They suspected that racism had played a part. They also alleged, later, that the case had been hampered by a corrupt link between police officers and Clifford Norris, the criminal father of one of the suspects. The Macpherson report has not found evidence to support that.

Back then, all they knew was that no one had been punished for their son's murder, and that was intolerable. The grieving parents simply refused to give up. If the authorities in whom they had placed their trust would not prosecute Stephen's killers, they would do it themselves.

Thus was launched only the fourth private prosecution for murder in more than a century. The police investigation team, now led by an energetic new detective superintendent, Bill Mellish, decided to co-operate.

He handed over evidence that included the now infamous video that was shot with a secret surveillance camera planted in Dobson's home in late 1994. The footage shows four of the five suspects brandishing knives and fantasising about killing black people.

The trial went ahead at the Old Bailey in 1996 of three of the youths: Dobson, Knight and Neil Acourt. But the judge, Mr Justice Curtis, refused to admit crucial identification evidence by Duwayne Brooks, and Michael Mansfield, QC, who was heading the prosecution, was forced to abandon the case. The three defendants were formally acquitted on the direction of the judge.

This was the bleakest period for the Lawrences. But in February 1997 the case gained a new momentum when the five suspects turned up at the inquest and refused to answer questions, each mockingly invoking his privilege against self-incrimination.

carried out plastering work at the house of the *Mail's* editor, Paul Dacre. Dacre took the unprecedented step of placing the photographs of the five on its front page under the headline "Murderers".

That extraordinary front page added to the pressure on

the Government to hold a public inquiry. The then Home Secretary, Michael Howard, had refused to meet their request. But in May came the general election and the Labour government. One of the first actions of the new Home Secretary, Jack Straw,

was to order a judicial inquiry chaired by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, a former High Court judge.

That inquiry, which began in March last year, dissected the first murder investigation, providing the Lawrences, finally, with the answers they needed.

It has found that the investigation was undermined not only by staggering incompetence, but also a "pernicious and institutionalised racism". The murder of one boy, the campaign of one couple, set in train a sequence of events that could never have been anticipated. Sir William has recommended a radical programme for reform of the police service and the criminal justice system, and the Government has listened. Thus the death of Stephen Lawrence will have changed the social and political landscape.

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JAMIE ACOURT
Arrested aged 16 in May 1993 but case against him never made it past committal hearings. Lived with his brother on the Brook Estate in Eltham.



GARY DOBSON
Told police contradictory stories about his movements on the night of the murder. Private prosecution against him also collapsed. Police found a CS gas canister at his home.



NEIL ACOURT
Identified as one of the killers by Stephen's friend Duwayne Brooks. Covert police footage showed him to be a violent racist. Never sent for trial because the CPS ruled there was insufficient evidence.



LUKE KNIGHT
Also identified by Duwayne Brooks as one of the attackers. Aged 16 when arrested in June 1993 but not charged because of insufficient evidence. Private prosecution collapsed.



DAVID NORRIS
Son of the notorious London gangster, Clifford Norris, now in jail for gun and drug offences. The private prosecution against him never made it past the committal stage.

Streets where race hatred is the norm

ELTHAM: SCENE OF THE CRIME



An Asian man braves Eltham's streets Neville Elder

Did they kill him? We may never find out

THE SUSPECTS

THEIR MOTHERS say they didn't do it; most of the rest of the world thinks they did. They have wriggled and squirmed to avoid being asked, innocent, yet guilty: this is the peculiar twilight status of the five chief suspects in the Lawrence case.

Did they kill Stephen Lawrence? We will probably never know. They are not about to confess and there is little chance, six years on, of new evidence emerging.

Three of them - Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson and Luke Knight, all 23 - were acquitted in 1996 after a private prosecution by Stephen's family. The other two - Jamie Acourt and David Norris, both 22 - were not tried because of lack of evidence.

Why then, does the finger of suspicion point so strongly at these five men? For one thing, witnesses saw them in the area before Stephen was stabbed. One claims to have seen some of them at home later that night, stripped to the waist, with wet hair, possibly even washing a knife.

Second, there is their reputation. The five were members of a teenage gang that had been terrorising council estates in Eltham, the south-east

London suburb where Stephen was killed. Three were from families with criminal connections; Norris's father, Clifford, was a local gangster who associated with uncles of the Acourt brothers.

The group carried knives and had allegedly been involved, between them, in a dozen previous incidents of violence, several of which were apparently racially motivated.

Within 48 hours of Stephen's murder, they had been named by 26 different sources. A police surveillance video exposed them as violent racists.

The public conduct of the five throughout this saga has only served to reinforce suspicions: their mocking swagger, effectively sticking two fingers up at society; their aggression outside the public inquiry, hatred etched on their faces; above all, their refusal to answer questions about the murder.

Rather than using the inquest to clear their names, they invoked their right to remain silent and secured a High Court ruling shielding them from difficult questions.

In the light of all this, it is not surprising that the five have been convicted in the court of public opinion. Indeed, the *Daily Mail* even took the unprecedented step of naming them as Stephen's murderers on its front page two years ago.

And yet the issue is not as clear cut as it might seem. A fortnight ago, in a startling development, it emerged that police now believe Dobson and Knight to be innocent.

There are said to be several new suspects, some of whom fit the description of a blond youth seen by Duwayne Brooks, Stephen's friend.

To focus only on the five was always simplistic. At the time of the murder, the Acourt brothers and Norris - still regarded as prime suspects by police - headed a gang of white youths with vicious reputations. Members included Charlie Martin and Danny Caetano, currently in jail for attempting to murder a rival gang member after a row on a caravan site near Rochester in Kent. The trial was told that they tried, quite literally, to skin their victim alive.

There were other suspects. Indeed, the public inquiry report castigates the Lawrence detectives for prematurely eliminating as many as eight, including the Lamb twins, Bradley and Scott, half brothers of the Acourts, and "Blue" Stuart, one of their cousins.

But this all comes too late for Dobson and Knight, for ever tainted by their association with Stephen's murder - although in Eltham the notoriety lends them a certain kudos. They are not ostracised, but many in the community keep their distance.

The five still socialise together and drink in pubs such as the Olde Greyhound in Eltham High Street. The Acourts are occasional disc jockeys at a nightclub, Doringtons, near the Blackhall Tunnel. Jamie plays football some Saturdays for Blackheath Wanderers' second team and Neil goes fly-fishing in gravel pits around Deptford. None of them has a job; Dobson and Knight draw the dole.

Reports that the five have an affluent lifestyle are fanciful. Their clothes have the look of

Top Man. Knight drives a D-registration Peugeot 205, and the P-registration Clio in which the Acourts are sometimes seen probably belongs to their mother or sister, judging by the furry hedgehog on the dashboard.

The question at the end of the day is this: will anybody ever serve time for Stephen's murder? Of the three remaining prime suspects, Neil Acourt has already been tried and acquitted, and the other two could argue that publicity has deprived them of a fair trial. They may not be beyond the reach of justice, though.

A new squad of detectives, led by Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve, is examining allegations that they were involved in a series of violent attacks in the area before Stephen was killed.

Meanwhile, the revelation that police are looking at several new murder suspects raises the prospect of a trial unprecedented by prior publicity.

Gathering evidence so long after the event would be difficult, but Mr Grieve regards the Lawrence case as a personal challenge. If he fails, a very nasty bunch of people will have got away with murder.

KATHY MARKS

"NO ONE likes us, no one likes us, we don't care," they chant on the terraces of Millwall Football Club, just a few miles from Eltham, the scene of Stephen Lawrence's murder.

The stabbing has prised up a scab in this part of south-east London, exposing a raw and ugly sub-culture of racism and violence. Eltham is real white man's country, with the ethnic minorities making up just over 4 per cent of the population. It's a place from where extreme-right groups seek to draw recruits - the British National Party has its headquarters in nearby Welling.

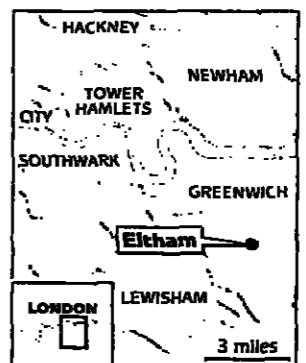
There are few black or Asian faces on the streets by day, and even fewer at night. In the estates the walls are scrawled with graffiti: "Kill the coons", "If there [sic] brown knock them down, if they are black send them back", "All niggers out" with the accompanying symbols of the National Front and British Movement.

Bunches of flowers, candles and notes had been left next to a plaque on Well Hall Road, where Stephen fell. Merle Stayne, a teacher who is white, said she was there to show her respects. "What happened to that poor boy is so terrible that we should all feel ashamed."

There is terrible racism in this area. You get gangs of white youths who simply terrorise people. Those who killed Stephen Lawrence are still around, people are scared of them. I have been brought up to believe that this country upheld certain standards of decency. What happened to Stephen destroyed all that.

A young man walking by with a can of lager in his hand said he knew two of the murder suspects. Jamie and Neil Acourt and was also a friend of Stacey Benefield, a white youth who the gang were accused of stabbing. "I think what happened to Stephen Lawrence was disgusting. Everyone around here knows who did this. We all knew the next day."

Soon after a van passed the memorial. The driver and his passenger shouted abuse and the driver gave a Nazi salute.



me here," he points to his temple. "Another time there were about six of them across the road from me and my mate calling us 'niggers'. We went over to ask what the trouble was and they jumped us. Both of us got hit by chains. Nothing has changed since Stephen Lawrence was killed. Nothing."

Back in the pubs Ronnie Johnston, a middle-aged white man, said: "What about the white people who get attacked by the blacks? Elderly people having their lives terrorised."

"It's bad what happened to that Lawrence boy, but you can't say we are all racist because of that. All you see on TV now is about Lawrence. I'll tell you there will be a reaction if this continues."

His companion, Stevie, said: "Let's face it most of the crimes around here are committed by blacks. We don't get any problems from the Asians. It's black crime that creates bad feeling and if you criticise it, you are immediately called a racist."

A middle-aged woman listening to the conversation said, in a conciliatory voice: "Look, don't get us wrong. We are all sorry for what happened to Stephen Lawrence, well a lot of us are anyway. But I don't think this report or whatever is going to change anything."

"You will never change people's attitude towards race. That's the way it is."

KIM SENGUPTA

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Judge whose sympathy surprised all



Sir William Macpherson: Developed 'an appreciation of the depth of racism'

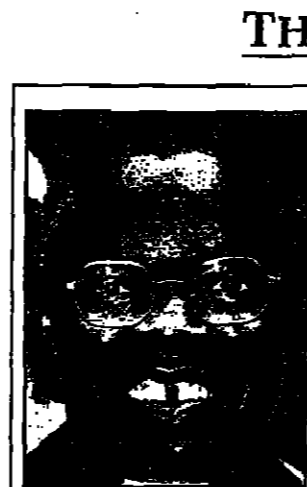
A 72-YEAR-OLD Highland chief was perhaps not the obvious choice to lead the journey through Britain's inner cities at the head of the most important inquiry in our race relations history. Certainly, Michael Mansfield QC and Imran Khan, the lawyers for the family of Stephen Lawrence, did not think so.

When Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, the 27th chief of Clan Macpherson, was appointed to head the inquiry into Stephen's murder, they objected. The retired judge, they believed, was a deeply conservative, Establishment man, with little sympathy for black people.

Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen Lawrence, were so scared by newspaper reports citing Sir William's high rates of refusal of leave for judicial review in immigration cases that the whole inquiry was almost undermined.

But Sir William, who was once described by his colleague Lord Justice Leggatt as "the most complete man I know", has adapted to the requirements of his task in a manner that has won widespread admiration from those who have closely followed the 18-month inquiry.

Peter Herbert, chairman of the Society of Black Lawyers, said that Sir William's own views about race relations had been turned on their head by the inquiry. "I think he has un-



The advisers: Bishop John Sentamu (left), Thomas Cook and Richard Stone

SIR WILLIAM Macpherson and his three advisers have very different backgrounds. John Mugabi Sentamu, a Ugandan-born bishop;

Thomas Cook, former West Yorkshire police chief; Richard Stone, a Jewish general practitioner; and Sir William, retired judge and Highland chief, worked together to create one of the most vital documents in the history of Britain's race relations.

Dr Sentamu, 49, was



educated in Kampala and Cambridge. He served as a Ugandan High Court judge before he joined the church.

He worked at HM Remand Centre, Latchmere House, in Surrey then became a vicar in south London. He was canon at Southwark Cathedral before moving to the bishopric of Stepney.

Mr Cook joined the police in 1964 and is a former secretary of the race and community relations



sub-committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers and a member of its crime committee.

Mr Stone, 61, has a practice in west London and is chairman of the Jewish Council for Racial Equality.

He was instrumental in uncovering the "Homes-for-Votes" scandal in Westminster, which led to the fall of Lady Porter. Homeless families had been placed in asbestos-contaminated flats.

THE INQUIRY TEAM

et, a former head of the Flying Squad, who was called in several months after Stephen's death in April 1998 to carry out an internal police review of the unsuccessful investigation.

Det Ch Supt Barker's review contained no strong criticism of the murder squad and was used as the central pillar of the Metropolitan Police's contention that the force had done everything it could to catch Stephen's killers.

Sir William dramatically cut short his evidence, saying he regarded the review as "indefensible" and adding: "His [Det Ch Supt Barker's] value as a witness and his credibility in which matters has already been much undermined for reasons which will be perfectly obvious for anyone here today."

Sir William has also retained the sort of firm grip on the proceedings that one might expect of someone who had a reputation as a "strong judge" during 13 years on the bench and who was once a lieutenant colonel in charge of the 21st Special Air Service territorial.

On the numerous occasions when shouts from the public gallery threatened to drown out the hearings, Sir William patiently and politely asked spectators to refrain from voicing their feelings.

The violent clashes outside the inquiry building in Elephant and Castle, south London, could hardly have been what Sir William had in mind when he retired from the Royal Courts of Justice in 1996.

He went back to the Macpherson ancestral home at Newton Castle, Perthshire, looking forward to spending more time playing golf and going fishing, saying that he might "sit occasionally to hear civil cases".

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High-profile case was kept in public eye

THE DEFENCE LAWYERS

THE TWO lawyers who tried to bring Stephen Lawrence's alleged killers to justice through a private prosecution had one thing in common - they had never had any experience of such an action before. It failed.

Imran Khan became the Lawrence family solicitor within days of Stephen's death and has dedicated much of the past six years to the case.

Michael Mansfield became involved with the case a few months after the murder.

He is one of Britain's most celebrated and successful defence lawyers and the hero of the human rights lobby. His clients have included the Angry Brigade, the Birmingham Six, the Bridgewater Three and Arthur Scargill.

Despite his many successes as a defence barrister he had no experience of prosecuting.

The men decided in 1994 to bring a private prosecution against Stephen's alleged killers.

Mr Khan maintained that the Criminal Prosecution Service had always had enough evidence to prosecute.

But the private action had to be abandoned when the evidence of key witness Duwayne Brooks was ruled inadmissible.

During the inquiry, Mr Mansfield's skilful questioning helped to expose the inadequacies of the police investigation but he was so

remorseless that it provoked an outcry from police groups. Mr Mansfield also attracted unwanted headlines later, when his high earnings from criminal legal aid cases were placed under scrutiny at a separate hearing at the House of Lords.

Mr Mansfield, 57, studied philosophy and history at Keele University, before teaching at a polytechnic and studying for his Bar exams through a correspondence course.

He failed land law three times before passing and became a QC in 1989.

Slim and charming, Mr Khan has never shied away from cases with a strong racial element. His decision to represent two Asian youths accused of involvement in the killing of a white London schoolboy, Richard Everitt, in 1994 led to threats being made on his life.

The tactics he has used in his tireless and determined campaign on behalf of the Lawrence family have unsettled the police.

And during the Macpherson inquiry, Mr Khan was said by police to have a "confrontational" attitude which "caused very real disruption" to the investigation.

A police statement to the inquiry accused him of "open opposition to the normal lines of family liaison which have been tried and tested in countless murders".

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Police face radical race law changes

THE WAY FORWARD

MASSIVE CHANGES will sweep through the police service, transforming daily working practices and how officers deal with race crimes.

If the reforms announced yesterday take hold, black and Asian officers will be seen in every city and town, individuals who suffer racist policing can sue, and discriminatory stop and searches will cease.

The fallout from the Lawrence affair has thrust racism to the top of the reform agenda. Sir Paul Condon admitted yesterday that the changes stemming from the inquiry "will mean doing things very differently from the way we responded in 1993".

Police chiefs - most noticeably at New Scotland Yard - have been falling over themselves to introduce anti-racist initiatives over the past year, although some campaigners, who say the notorious police "canteen culture" is still very much alive and kicking, believe a total overhaul is needed. At the Yard, John Grieve has been given the Herculean task of convincing the public, and fellow officers, that "nicking racists" is a top priority.

His new racial and violent crime task force will adopt a tactic he developed as head of the anti-terrorist branch.

"In the same way we made the environment in London hostile to terrorists we want to extend that to racists," he said. "My job is to nick racists and change the culture."

The Deputy Assistant Commissioner predicts that a new form of accountability will be "forged from the fire of the Lawrence inquiry".

He says one way to change the canteen culture is to involve officers more deeply in the investigation of racism. This forces them to discard "dis-

crimatory and prejudicial thoughts".

The Yard's new strategy is outlined in its policy document Operation Spectrum. The anti-racist initiatives include the use of DNA testing, paid informants, and undercover police officers.

Officers will also mount "sting" operations to catch race-hate criminals. Black officers will be used to trap racist colleagues. Racist pupils and teachers in schools, universities and colleges will be targeted.

Tactics include placing a plain-clothes Asian officer outside a football ground and arresting people who racially abuse him.

Since Mr Grieve took over in August more than 400 people have been charged with racially motivated crimes. Last July there were 62 charges, in November 141.

Tackling racism within the police is "very difficult" and a gradual process, he believes, but he points to the doubling in the number of black and Asian Met recruits to 873 and the increasing number in high-ranking posts.

He admits non-whites are still greatly under-represented and there are difficulties in retaining ethnic minority officers. Only 2 per cent of the police service in England and Wales - 2,483 - are from ethnic minorities.

The reforms announced yesterday by the Home Secretary include setting targets for recruitment, retention and promotion of ethnic minority police and civilian staff. A figure of 7 per cent is expected, although previous pledges to increase ethnic recruitment have been largely ignored.

The most fundamental change, and one of the most important announced yesterday, is extension of the 1976 Race Relations Act to cover police. This will allow individuals to take legal action against a force if they act in a racist or discriminatory way, which means police may have to pay hundreds of thousands of pounds in compensation - there is no limit on the size of payments for discrimination.

An individual would have to show that people in a different racial group would have been treated differently in similar circumstances.

That means the black motorist, whose private legal action failed earlier this year after he was allegedly stopped

and searched 34 times by the West Midlands Police, would have a better chance of success in court.

Legal experts believe it would not be necessary to prove police officers involved had intended to be racist, simply that discrimination resulted from their actions.

The reforms will cover prison staff, the immigration service, and local government officers. The Commission for Racial Equality would be empowered to launch investigations of police action.

Other initiatives include an immediate inspection of the Metropolitan Police by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, with a thorough scrutiny of unsolved murders.

And from April new internal rules will ease and speed the sacking of bad officers.



Two officers outside New Scotland Yard yesterday showing the acceptable face of the Met Peter Macdiarmid

Case united every shade of opinion

THE MEDIA

THE MURDER of Stephen Lawrence and subsequent police investigation has been one of those rare instances in which a story and its injustices have gone beyond the boundaries of news reporting and - through plays and television drama - moved into the realms of popular culture.

The case has raised profound and searching questions about racism, police corruption and the legal system and, in doing so, provided a near constant source of moral outrage for media of every political hue and cultural disposition.

One of the key elements in keeping the Lawrence case in the public's attention was the astonishing decision by Paul Dacre, the editor of the *Daily Mail* at the time, to name and picture the five white youths accused of the murder under the headline 'Murderers' on the front page on 15 February 1997.

The *Daily Mail* has a history of stoking middle England's fears of immigrants and is usually blindly loyal to the police, so its first reporting of the Lawrence case focused less on the murder than on the 'race extremists' who were using Stephen Lawrence's parents as 'pawns'. However, the *Mail*'s subsequent interest was special because Neville Lawrence knew Paul Dacre personally - as a plasterer he had worked on the editor's home when it was being re-decorated.

But the story of the murdered black teenager has resonated beyond the traditional limits set by news pages and news bulletins. Stephen's parents, Doreen and Neville, delivered Channel 4's alternative Christmas Day address last year and, in January this year, the Tricycle Theatre in north London premiered the *Colour of Justice*, a reconstruction of the inquiry into the police investigation.

Based on inquiry transcripts, the play was staged by the company previously responsible for *Half the Picture*, a dramatisation of the Scott inquiry into arms to Iraq, and *Srebrenica*, which covered the



Actor Christopher Fox as Jamie Acourt in the play 'Colour of Justice'

war crimes tribunal at the Hague.

The reviews were unanimous: "Compelling"; "The most vital piece of theatre on the London stage"; "Everyone who cares about the health of the community should see this play". The theatre was besieged with eager punters and television crews. "I've never seen anything like it," artistic director Nicholas Kent said. "I think it was people wanting to show solidarity with the Lawrences. This was a way of saying, 'we're involved'."

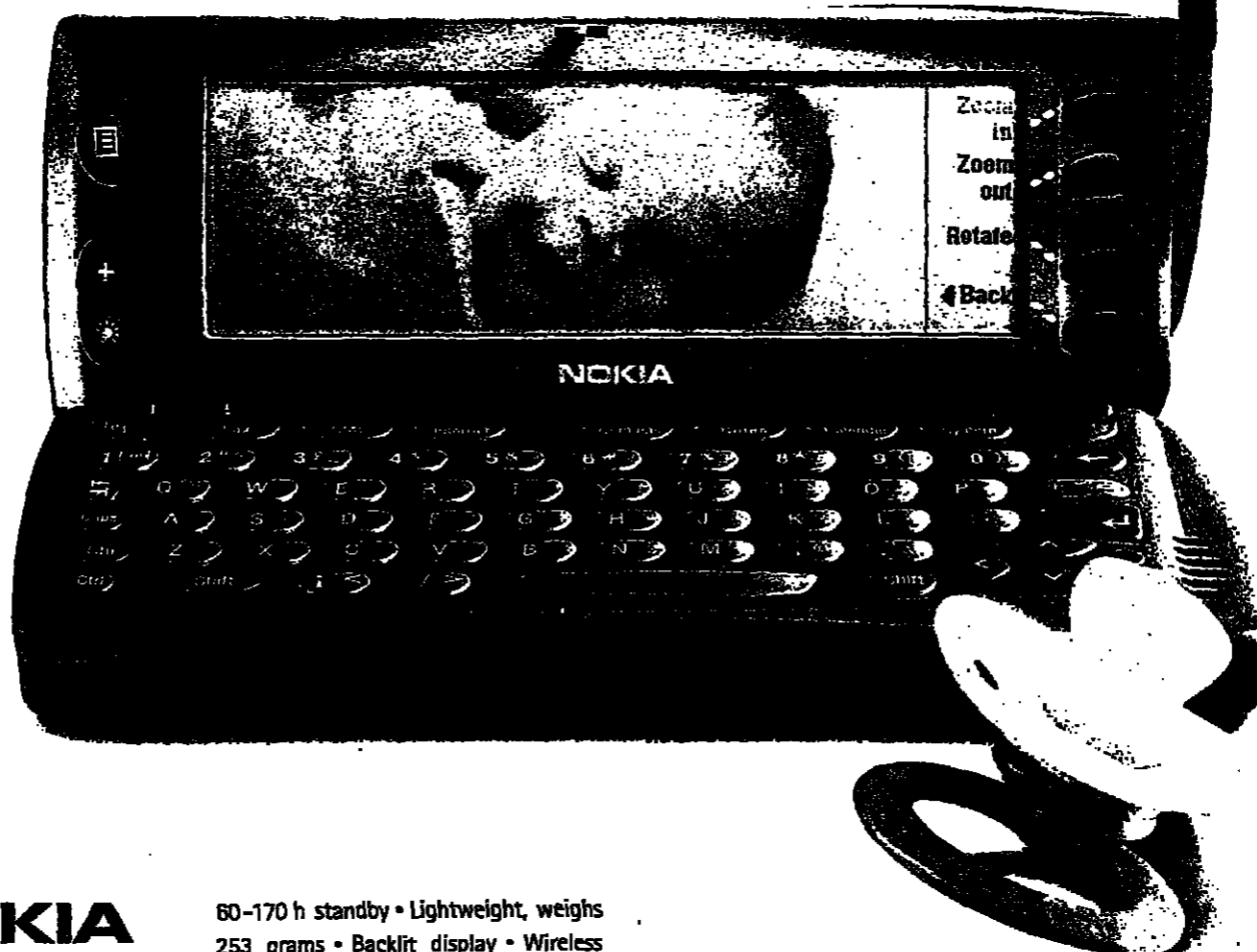
Colour of Justice quickly transferred to the West End and, following intensive lobbying of the BBC's broadcast director Alan Yentob (after a panel discussion on the play's first night, Jon Snow urged the audience to e-mail the corporation), it was filmed for television and screened on BBC 2 last Sunday.

Last Thursday, ITV screened *The Murder of Stephen Lawrence*, a two-hour dramatisation which starred the Oscar-nominated actress Marianne Jean-Baptiste and dealt with the killing and its aftermath.

Told from the point of view of the Lawrence family, it moved one critic to conclude: "The film's peak-time showing on our most watched channel could prove to be crucial in turning the murder into one of those real-life parables that actually changes how a people thinks about itself."

RHYS WILLIAMS
AND PAUL MCCANN

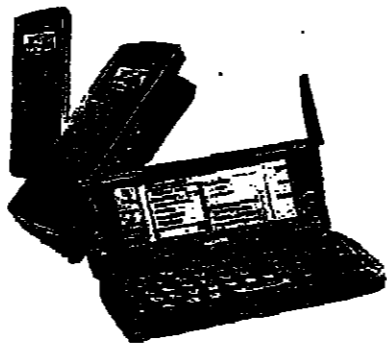
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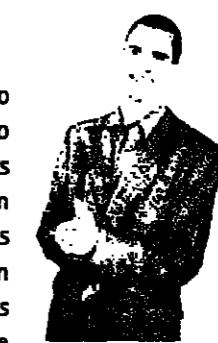
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Ralf Höhne
Systems Analyst

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COMMONS DEBATE

"That is the attitude that permeates institutionalised racism so we have to begin to call to account the actions of some of these detectives. The black community is looking very

But he expressed concern about the use of the phrase "institutional racism", which should not be used as a generalised condemnation of the

Alan Beith, for the Liberal Democrats, said the report told an "horrific story of incompetence, bad management and

Joan Ruddock, Labour MP for Lewisham Deptford and former minister for women, added: "There is a great sense

worder version of the classic "nobody likes you" gambit, which can always be drawn upon when argument fails.

But when the House moved on to Jack Straw's statement on the Lawrence report everyone was back on the best behaviour. This was entirely as it should be, but there is no use pretending that it was exciting. Mr Straw read from his script with grave solemnity, and members on both sides obediently seconded the proper sentiments. Then Sir Norman Fowler got up to say much the same things all over again, his speech only distinguished from that of the undersecretary by slight adoptions of emphasis—a little more stress on the essentially decent nature of the police force, a little less stress on our collective personal responsibility. Members sat through the respectful redundancies patiently, fully aware that this was a ceremony of consensus, not of considered deliberation.

It was only after Bertram had risen to remind the House that all these speeches had been uttered before, after the Seaman report 18 years ago and to warn, rather ominously that this was "a last chance", that any sense of recalcidance intruded into proceedings. As though jolted by this contribution Mr Straw ventured on to philosophical ground — it used to be thought that the police force would be colour blind, he said, but now everyone realised that it wasn't about treating all people the same, it about treating people equally while recognising their diversity, in as much as was comprehensible, that remark seems to me open to question, but yesterday was the day it was going to be. One can only hope a genuine debate will follow.

[illegible]

Britain could sign up to euro in 2001

BY ANDREW GRICE AND
STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

BRITAIN COULD join the single currency within months of a "yes" vote in the referendum expected to be held in 2001.

Although euro notes and coins would not replace the pound until 2004, sterling could be "locked in" to the single currency by 2002, it emerged yesterday. In the interim, people could use the euro as an "electronic currency" by using credit cards and cheques drawn on euro accounts.

Britain would then be in the same position as the 11 EU countries that launched the euro last month, but which will not use euro notes and coins until 2002.

Government sources confirmed yesterday that Britain could enter the single currency much quicker than suggested by the national changeover plan unveiled by Tony Blair on Tuesday.

This envisaged a gap of 24 to 30 months between the referendum and the introduction of euro notes and coins, but left open the critical "joining date" at which Britain locked exchange rates with the euro zone.

Treasury officials said yesterday the key date was still un-



Gordon Brown: Wants the joining period to be brief

resolved, and the Government would now hold talks with British business and the European Commission.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, wants to limit the period between the referendum and the locking of exchange rates to avoid unsettling the financial markets. But the business world wants as long as possible to prepare.

In Brussels, the European Commission said Britain would be given the green light to link the pound to the euro soon after the referendum if the economy had achieved "sustainable convergence" with the euro zone.

A spokesman said: "Once the

European Council has taken the decision that the UK meets the necessary conditions, the way would be open for the UK to join monetary union in the sense of fixing exchange rates, ahead of the introduction of notes and coins."

Although Britain would have to show it had a stable exchange rate, other EU countries are unlikely to insist on the Maastricht Treaty's requirement for member states to join the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) for two years before entering the single currency.

In the Commons yesterday, Mr Blair clashed with William Hague after the Tory leader said Britain would have to "shadow" the euro before it would be able to join it.

Mr Hague urged Mr Blair to "come clean" and admit economic policy would now be dictated by the interests of Brussels. But, the Prime Minister said, "if this is the latest of their euro scares, it will fail like the other ones."

Although Mr Blair's policy statement on the euro has been welcomed in Brussels, he will be isolated at an informal meeting of EU leaders in Germany tomorrow to discuss the EU's future funding. The other 14 countries want to end Britain's special rebate on contributions to the EU budget.



The sweeping skirt and top combination that brought praise from the experts of fashion

Ben Elwes

Ghost's couture suits all tastes

BY SUSANNAH FRANKEL
Fashion Editor

TANYA SARNE showed her Ghost label at London Fashion Week for the last time yesterday. The designer decamped from London to New York in the early Nineties and she plans to return there next season.

Her parting shot here cemented her label's reputation as one of this country's finest.

She had something for everyone, from the very young and very thin to the not-so-young and not-so-thin. Skirts were floor-sweeping or knee-length, narrow or full; camisoles came with and without little sleeves.

The Victorian scene that emerged on the Ghost catwalk last season was further developed, with high-necked delicately embroidered blouses based on lingerie but in far more subtle colours: pale jade, primrose, buttermilk and black.

Later a beatnik feel came to the fore - skinny shirts worn over full skirts with punched leather belts tied at the hip.

The knitwear gets better every season, this time with fondant-coloured tops, skirts and dresses that resembled the prettiest babywears though rather more sexy.

For evening, the glamorous Ghost customer will not be disappointed by sequinned and embroidered chiffon dresses in palest grey, plum and black worn with slightly quilted velvet coats in rich midnight colours.

Minister faces resignation calls over Sandline leak

THE FOREIGN Office minister Tony Lloyd faced calls for his resignation last night after allegations that he misled the House of Commons over a leaked committee report.

The Labour MP Ernest Ross was also facing possible disciplinary action after admitting that he gave the Foreign Affairs Select Committee report

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

on Sierra Leone to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

Mr Cook defended his department in the House of Commons yesterday after cancelling a hearing with the committee, at which he was bound to have been questioned on

the issue. "We did not seek to alter the opinion of the committee or to offer comments on the draft. Nor did we publish or disclose any part of the draft to the media or anyone else," Mr Cook said.

Mr Lloyd was in particular trouble because he said in a written answer to Cheryl Gillan, a member of the Con-

servatives' foreign affairs team, that no one in his department had seen the report before it was published.

Mr Cook maintained yesterday that the answer was not misleading because he had seen only a draft report.

Several Conservatives called for the resignation of Mr Lloyd, who is on a tour of Africa.

Sir George Young, shadow Leader of the House, said Mr Cook had handled the whole affair badly. "The Government have been caught red-handed doing what we all knew they had been doing since they were elected, namely treating this House with contempt," he said.

A liaison committee of chairmen from select committees

will meet today to discuss possible action against Mr Ross, who resigned from the Foreign Affairs committee over the leak. It will then advise the Foreign Affairs committee, which may decide to refer the matter to the Standards and Privileges committee for possible disciplinary action.

The draft report was

received at the Foreign Office in the second week of January, four weeks before the final report was actually published.

When the final version came out, it was scathing in its criticism of Foreign Office officials, saying that civil servants had failed to warn ministers of Sandline's breaches of the arms embargo and that a Foreign

Office once regarded as a Rolls-Royce now looked more like an "old banger".

Donald Anderson, the committee chairman, said the committee would follow the rules of the House to the letter in investigating the leak.

It was likely there would be a special report to the House on the affair, he said.

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I'm here for Nazi victims, says witness

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

A HOLOCAUST survivor told a court yesterday that he spoke for the "tens and maybe hundreds" of Jews he alleges were murdered by Anthony Sawoniuk, the defendant in Britain's first war crimes trial.

In a series of harrowing recollections, Ben Zion Blustein said he was one of just a dozen Jews from his home town's population of up to 5,000 who survived. At one point he and his family hid for days in a cellar. He escaped and they took their lives rather than be captured and killed.

"At this time in my testimony it is the most difficult time in my life," he told the Old Bailey. "I dream about these friends night after night and I think about people most every day... This trial is about 50 years too late."

Mr Sawoniuk, 77, from south London, is alleged to have murdered up to 20 Jews while serving as a police officer in Nazi-occupied Belarus in the Second World War. He denies the charges.

Mr Blustein, 76, a childhood

friend of Mr Sawoniuk, was living in Domachevo, Belarus, when the Nazis invaded in June 1941. Having forced the Jews into a ghetto he said the Nazis set about "liquidating" them.

On the morning of the Jewish festival of atonement - Yom Kippur - in 1942 the Nazis gathered the Jews in the street. Fearing the brutality that was to follow, Mr Blustein, his parents and brother and sister hid in a cellar only a few metres across. There, they waited and listened. "We heard lots of shooting. We heard shouts and cries and we could understand what had happened to them [the other Jews]," he said. "No one returned."

Wiping away tears, Mr Blustein said his family was forced to consider its position. His stepfather decided they should take their own lives, using hoarded medicines. "We took leave of one another. My father took morphine. We took the drugs," he said. Only his stepfather died while the others sur-

fered "terrible burning" inside. They had no water. At this point his mother decided they should cut their wrists. Mr Blustein said his brother, Shlomo, seven, was afraid of blood and had to be persuaded by his 10-year-old sister that they would go to a place where they could live "normally".

As he prepared to kill himself Mr Blustein's mother told him he alone should try to escape. "My mother said to me, 'Son, do as I order you to do,' he said. He was never to see his family again.

Mr Blustein hid in the attic from where he could see the Nazis and local police rounding up Jews and "shooting children".

At one point he saw an 80-year-old Jew, Shaya Idel, dressed in a prayer shawl, being bayoneted by police who then set fire to his beard. Asked if he recognised any of the police involved, Mr Blustein replied: "Andruska (Mr Sawoniuk's nickname) was there."

Eventually Mr Blustein was



Ben Zion Blustein (left) leaving the Old Bailey in London where he has been giving evidence against Anthony Sawoniuk in Britain's first war crimes trial

forced to work for the Nazis at their stables. There, after the murder of another Jew, Mir Barlas, he said he spoke to Mr Sawoniuk.

"What I understood from what he told me... that he killed him and Andruska said to

me that Barlas had been very courageous," he said.

Cross-examined by William Clegg QC, for the defence, Mr Blustein was asked if, 57 years on, his memory might be at fault.

"Things I want to forget, I

don't remember. Things that are important to me, I will never forget," he retorted.

"Such things a man can never forget and I thank God who gave me good memory that I can remember all these things and I come to this trial as a wit-

ness, as a mouth, for the tens and maybe the hundreds who were killed by this man, to be their voice. I do not seek revenge - I trust that the English legal system is fine enough to find the most suitable penalty." The trial continues.

Blair to signal new rail strategy

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

THE PRIME Minister has intervened in the dispute over the dismal state of the rail industry and taken charge of today's summit aimed at getting trains to run on time.

Downing Street said Tony Blair had decided to give the opening speech because of the importance he attaches to transport. He will address an audience that will include train companies, Railtrack, the regulators and passenger representatives.

His intervention will be taken as a clear sign that transport is moving back up the political agenda. It had been understood the meeting would be run by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Transport.

Mr Blair's presence will be a boost for Mr Prescott after his failure to secure a place for the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) Bill in last year's Queen's Speech. The Government last night said it had appointed Sir Alastair Morton as SRA chairman. There is speculation Mr Blair will announce he has found time in this Parliament to create the SRA.

Steve Richards,
Review, page 4

Publican in court over Omagh case

THE FIRST person charged in connection with the Omagh bombing appeared yesterday at Dublin's anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court.

Armagh-born Colm Murphy, 48, a building contractor who also runs a Dundalk pub, was charged with conspiracy with an unnamed person to cause an explosion under the terms of Ireland's Offences Against the State Act, between 13 and 16 August last year.

Mr Murphy, of Ravensdale, Co Louth, also faced a second charge of membership of the Irish Republican Army, an illegal organisation, on 14 August 1998. He was arrested on Sunday and held in custody for questioning under anti-terrorist legislation.

He spoke only to confirm his name. Mr Justice Frederick Morris, presiding over the three judges, remanded Mr Murphy in custody until 18 March pending a bail application.

Mr Murphy was one of five people detained last Sunday by gardai in the Louth and Monaghan area in connection with the Omagh blast last August, which killed 29 people.

Two further arrests were made in Dundalk on Monday. In a related operation the Royal Ulster Constabulary detained a number of men including the

BY ALAN MURDOCH
in Dublin

chairman of the 32 County Sovereignty Committee. A garda spokesman said last night three men were still being questioned, one in Monaghan and the others in Carrickmacross. The Garda investigation into the Omagh blast was based there until it moved to Garda divisional headquarters at Monaghan. The car used in the bombing was stolen in Carrickmacross in the Irish Republic, but detectives believe the bomb itself was manufactured in Northern Ireland.

The IRA was accused yesterday of being responsible for an attack on a woman in South Armagh during which a gang used a knife to carve a death threat on her arms and legs.

The woman was attacked by up to eight men, four of them reportedly with rifles, who forced their way into her home in the village of Bessbrook in the early hours.

Dublin newspapers reported yesterday that the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, was told earlier this month of two training camps opened by the Provisional IRA in the Irish Republic in readiness for a renewed campaign of violence if the peace process collapses.

Stress leads staff to serve abroad

BRITISH WORKERS, fed up with their jobs, are flocking to work as volunteers overseas, giving up high salaries and a comfortable way of life at home.

Skilled applicants to Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), the world's biggest independent volunteer agency, are up by one-third in the past six months as a survey shows declining job satisfaction in the United Kingdom and a growing determination to find work that is meaningful.

Applications from nurses, doctors and therapists are up by 55 per cent, from construction workers by 68 per cent and from English teachers by 77 per cent.

A survey conducted by VSO among employees in Britain found that more than half of people thought they were forced to become workaholics to keep up with the demands of their jobs. More than one in four felt their values were different from those of their employers.

Of the 1,000 people interviewed, almost two-thirds said that given the choice between a job they enjoyed and one that paid more but was less enjoy-

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

able, they would choose the job they enjoyed.

Jonathan Dimbleby, television presenter and president of VSO, said: "I was startled by the figures. Although it is good news for VSO it must be bad news that there is such a high degree of dissatisfaction, anxiety and unhappiness in the workforce."

VSO had 19,000 applicants in the past six months. The agency has 2,000 volunteers working in more than 50 countries. They get board and lodging and a subsistence payment.

Monica Evans, a nurse in an accident and emergency department, is going to Tanzania as a clinical nurse tutor for VSO. She left the NHS because of the stressful conditions and rising levels of aggression and violence. "You go into nursing because you want to help people and after eight years I just didn't feel I was helping anybody. I was not getting the back-up and support I needed from my managers to cope with such stressful conditions," she said.

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APR 29 '99

Directors ousted as M&S axes top jobs

MARKS & SPENCER has reacted to its stumbling performance on the high street with a drastic management clear-out at its Baker Street head office in London and the threat of more to come.

Britain's biggest retailer is ousting three members of its board and 28 of its 125 most senior managers to help to streamline decision-making and make the group less bureaucratic. Retail experts say the move could be the prelude to up to 1,000 redundancies at the group's headquarters, which employs 4,000 people. The cuts are the first redundancies at the traditionally paternalistic employer since 1991 when 700 jobs went.

Yesterday's casualties include John Sacher, the last remaining member of the founding Marks & Spencer families on the executive board. Mr Sacher, 57, is the great

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

grandson of Michael Marks, one of the partners who founded M&S in 1884. He has been at the company since 1968 and was in charge of information technology systems.

His departure means the only boardroom link with the founding families is Lord Sieff, a non-executive director and the son of a previous chairman.

Also going is Chris Littwood, the head of M&S operations in America, fuelling speculation about a sell-off of the Brooks Brothers division - the classic menswear chain for which it paid more than £400m in 1988.

The changes are the first major moves by the new chief executive, Peter Salisbury, since he issued a profits warning last month. He is under pressure to restore the group's fortunes, which have been hit by

falling sales, rising costs associated with a rapid expansion and merchandising mistakes that have left the shops full of unwanted goods.

The City welcomed yesterday's changes and the shares rose 19.75p to 401.75p. However, some experts criticised the company for failing to bring in new blood. "It looks to me as though they are just shuffling the pack internally, which can't do any harm but I think something more radical may be required," one fund manager said.

Many analysts have been pushing for the group to appoint a new chairman from outside the business to replace Sir Richard Greenbury, the current non-executive chairman. It was problems over finding his successor that led to a huge boardroom bust-up at the group last year resulting in the departure of its deputy chairman, Keith Oates. "They need some

new faces," one analyst said.

Mr Salisbury is working on a strategic review of the group's operations, which span the UK, continental Europe, the US and the Far East.

The three departing directors - the other is Derek Hayes, who was in charge of M&S's continental European operations - will leave at the end of May. The total cost of the restructuring is expected to be about £10m.

M&S hit problems last year when it warned of a "bloodbath" on Britain's high streets. The company blamed weak consumer confidence and talk of recession. But analysts said the merchandise had become dowdy and prices were seen as too high as the company was still buying most of its clothing in Britain while rivals shipped in goods from lower-cost producers in the Far East.

Comment, page 21



Matthew Pinsent rowing for Comic Relief in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, yesterday. The 10-man British Olympic squad's 100km in 4hr 44min 32sec beat the indoor rowing machine world record by 18min
John Lawrence

Emergency Services don't have policies about giving up after half an hour.

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to you and get you back on the road, quicker than any other

Viewers turned off by gay soap

BY RHYE WILLIAMS
Media Correspondent

A THIRD of the viewers watching Channel 4's much-hyped new drama series *Queer as Folk*, charting the lives of three homosexual men in Manchester, switched channels during the first episode on Tuesday night.

About 2.2 million viewers were watching when the programme began at 10.30pm, but by its close 40 minutes later nearly three-quarters of a million had switched off.

The programme outperformed Channel 4's share of the viewing average, claiming 15 per cent of the available audience, but that would have been the least the station's executives would have wanted. *Queer as Folk* was scheduled against relatively weak programming on rival networks and had been trailed heavily in a poster advertising campaign.

The drama has been marketed as significant in several respects. Although *EastEnders* and BBC2's *This Life* both introduced homosexuality into mainstream drama with varying degrees of explicitness, *Queer as Folk* is the first where all the main characters are gay.



Craig Kelly and Aidan Gillen of 'Queer as Folk'

Mark Watson, communications director of the gay lobby group Stonewall, played down suggestions that it represented a cultural breakthrough. "It's a piece of television drama at the end of the day," he said. "It's an interesting programme and I think it's good that we have programmes like this, but it's not a political programme."

The series is also important to Michael Jackson, chief executive of Channel 4, who believes that the network lacks signature shows that will help to define its distinctive place in British broadcasting.

Birds breed on gas platform

SEABIRDS HAVE nested on a British production platform for the first time since the offshore energy industry began 30 years ago.

Kittiwakes, the most seagull-like members of the gull family, have colonised British Gas's Morecambe Central Gas Platform, midway between the Lancashire coast and the Isle of Man. Two pairs have between them successfully reared three young.

The development might be the beginning of widespread colonisation, said Ross McGregor, recorder of the North Sea Bird Club, which monitors wildlife activity on and around the platforms which have been installed since the early 1970s.

"This is the first record of nesting on a rig in British waters and this could result in more kittiwakes joining them in future and possibly other types of seabirds, such as guillemots and razorbills, being attracted also," he said.

"It's a fantastic development and I hope this is just the start. It would be marvellous if seabird colonies could become established on the rigs."

Kittiwake nesting had been expected for some time but attempts had been foiled by scavenging herring gulls taking the eggs. The two pairs on the Irish Sea platform overcame that problem by choosing a site inaccessible to the marauders.

The nests were on a ledge behind lots of piping and under another ledge, but still beside a sharp 50ft to 100ft drop to the sea, making it similar to a nat-

BY BRIAN UNWIN

ural kittiwake site on a sheer cliff face," Mr McGregor said. "Once a herring gull did try but couldn't land on the ledge, so the nests were clearly protected from the only possible predators - which is the likely reason why they were successful."

"If a colony becomes established, that will be less of a problem as it grows in size. Normally a large colony's size alone effectively protects the eggs and nestlings as predators such as the larger gulls are dissuaded from scavenging."

Mr McGregor said that oil and gas platforms around the British coast were also important to wildlife, providing vital resting points to migrant land birds. "Sometimes thousands gather and there are instances of rigs having had to shut down operations until they leave."

The most unusual bird recorded on a British platform was a Pacific swift, which appeared at a site nearly 30 miles off the Norfolk coast in June 1981. It should have been somewhere between Siberia and Japan.

Kittiwakes have been nesting on man-made structures only since the 1930s. Normally they are coastal, with the most inland site the Tyne Bridge at Newcastle, 10 miles from the sea. Birds nested for the first time last year on a platform put up by Gateshead council near the bridge to compensate for their eviction from the riverside Baltic Flour Mill, which is being converted into an arts complex.

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Second avalanche hits resorts as storms halt rescue mission

BY IMRE KARACS
in Landeck

DISASTER STRUCK again for thousands of holidaymakers imprisoned by snow in the Tyrolean ski resort of Galtür yesterday as a new avalanche devastated the nearby resort of Valzur, while storms cut off their tenuous link to the outside world.

An army spokesman, Major Thomas Schönherr, said three helicopters had set off for Valzur, but their arrival could not be guaranteed. "It will be extremely difficult because it is snowing so heavily," he said.

Major Schönherr described the latest snowfall in Valzur as serious: "It was another major avalanche," he said. "Three houses were destroyed."

The death toll from Tuesday's storms in Galtür rose to 16 yesterday.

The Austrian news agency APA said that out of nine dead identified so far, six were German holidaymakers, including two small children. The other three were Austrian nationals, including a six-year-old girl and a pregnant woman killed in her home with her mother-in-law.

The provincial governor of Tyrol, Wendelin Weingartner, confirmed that no one had been found alive since specialist rescue teams entered Galtür early yesterday from nearby Landeck.

"That is the sad truth," he said. "But we hope, nevertheless, that it might be possible to find someone in the remains of houses."

The total number missing in both towns was at least 32, including 26 people from Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark. It was not known whether any British people were among them.

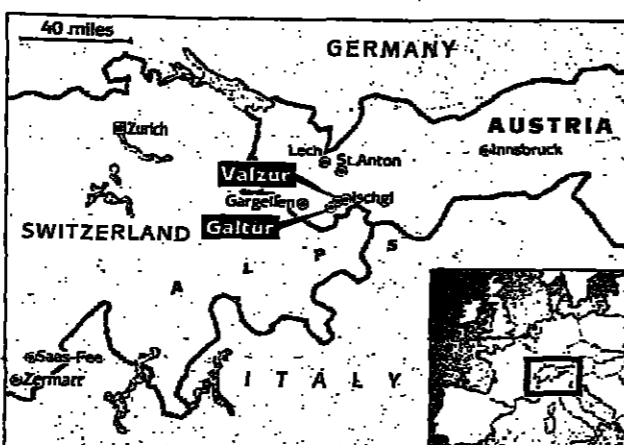
Experts said victims stood the best chance of survival within the first 15 minutes after an avalanche.

It was not clear if Galtür would have to be completely evacuated because of the continuing avalanche risk.

The local police chief, Anton Koler, said preparations were being made to evacuate up to 5,000 people from the region. By early yesterday 1,000 tourists had been flown out of Galtür with the injured and another 400 were waiting to leave.

"The situation is getting really dramatic," he said. "Morale will be at rock bottom and there will certainly be a threat of panic. People of course want out as soon as possible, but that's not possible."

As darkness fell in the Alps, Austrian army helicopters that



had flown in to the area since first light were grounded again because of atrocious weather.

Earlier in the day, emergency workers helped by sniffer dogs were frantically trying to dig the latest victims from their icy tombs. They managed to pull out four of the injured, one of whom died later.

The outside world, meanwhile, looks on helplessly. Promised international help in the shape of 10 giant US Black Hawk helicopters - brought in from peace-keeping preparations for Kosovo - were left stranded in the Tyrolean capital of Innsbruck.

The road leading to the twin resorts of Ischgl and Galtür ends just outside the village of Landeck some 18 miles away.

If there is a break in the weather, the Austrian army hopes to start cutting a path through the mountains of snow.

Until then, the helicopter remains the only hope for those trapped on the wrong side, including hundreds of stranded Britons.

The helicopter shuttle began at dawn yesterday, taking off at five-minute intervals from a makeshift base next to Landeck's army barracks. Their grey silhouettes against the all-encompassing white of this ski resort made an eerie sight.

Marc van Corven, a Dutchman on holiday with his family at the resort of Ischgl, was awoken by the noise at 6.30am. "At first I was frightened, because I didn't understand what they were doing here. I didn't realise the situation was so bad."

They had endured three avalanches, each burying a section of their hotel, but every time the roof held. Ensnared in their idyll, they were blissfully ignorant of the tragedy which had engulfed the neighbouring village of Galtür. The children even enjoyed their ride on the helicopter on the way out, and Mr van Corven said he would go skiing again. "But not here," his wife interjects.

You could tell on the faces of people embarking from the helicopters which resort they had been evacuated from. The children from Ischgl skipped about, their faces beaming, after what must have been the adventure of a lifetime.

The children from Galtür were hushed, their parents visibly in a state of shock; many faces are puffed with exertion. The room set aside for psychological counselling is full with people who look as though they've just returned from hell.

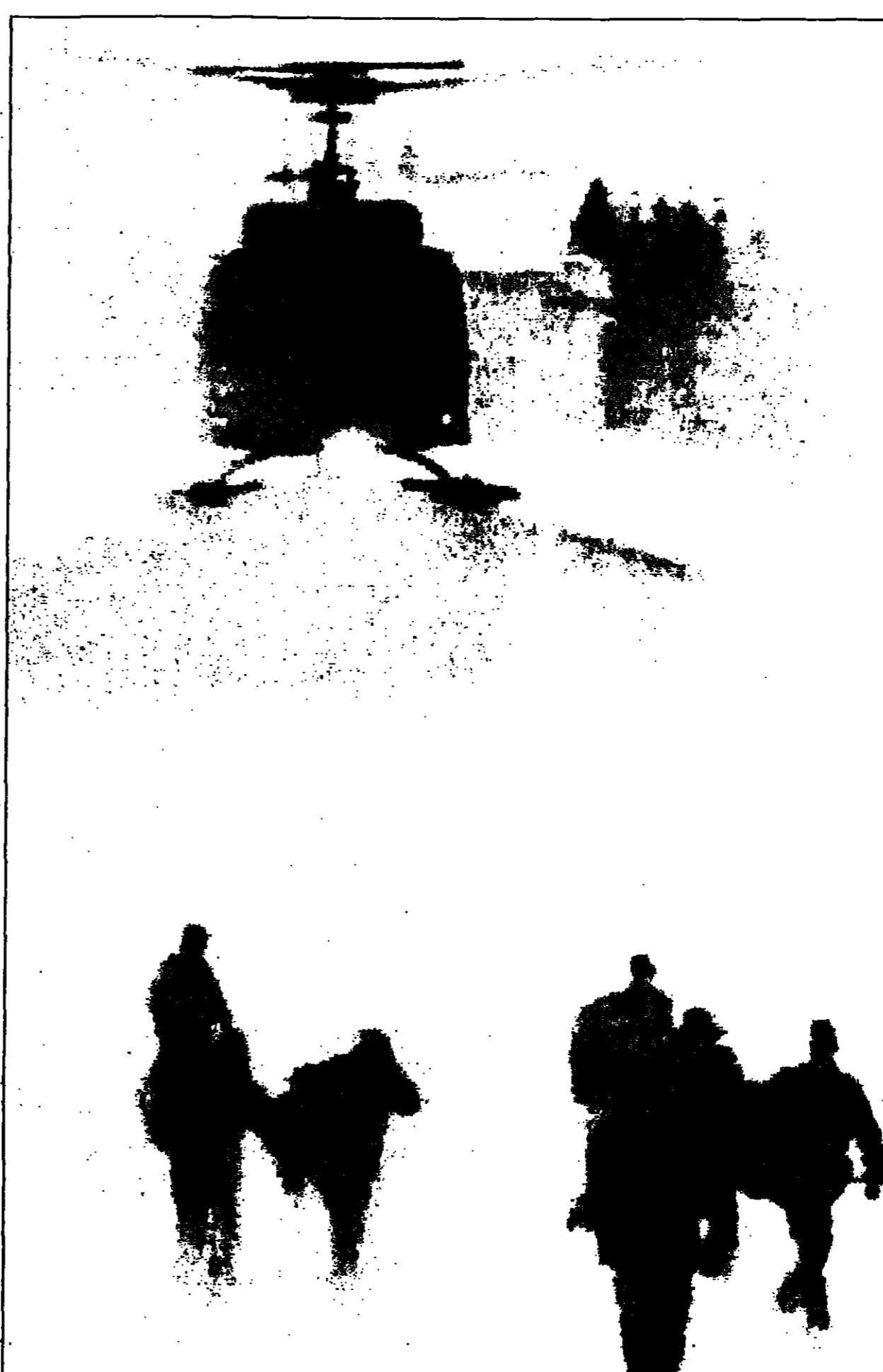
There is an apocalyptic air to the entire village. When the helicopters were airborne, Landeck had the appearance of a military camp, the barracks guarded from television crews by soldiers wielding sub-machine guns. When they stopped, it was even worse: empty buses skidding by aimlessly in the heavy snow, rescue workers peering into the sky, as if trying to will the flakes to stop. And the winds to cease howling.

There is still some hope left. Thanks to the helicopters, special rescue teams, equipment, medical supplies and food reached the settlement for the first time in two days. One minor victory against the elements was chalked up when the equipment buried at the fire station of Galtür was liberated by the fresh hands.

The rescue teams, however, look shattered. In Landeck they were finally allowed to come off their shifts yesterday 20 hours after they had begun. For those marooned behind the unyielding mountains, maybe relief will come today.

But there is always the danger of fresh avalanches and deteriorating conditions. The small Austrian helicopters cannot ferry more than 400 people a day. The 4,000 stranded holidaymakers desperately await the arrival of the large American aircraft.

The Foreign Office has issued a number for anyone worried about relatives in the area. It is 0171-270-3000.



An Austrian helicopter dropping off rescuers yesterday to look for victims of Tuesday's avalanche in the Tyrolean village of Galtür. About 32 people are still missing there, and in nearby Valzur

Serbian forces mass against Kosovo

BY MARCUS TANNER

SERBIAN TROOPS were reported to be preparing a big military offensive in Kosovo yesterday, just as their diplomats headed home from Rambouillet in France claiming victory in talks over the province's future.

One senior Nato official in the Netherlands reported a "substantial build-up" by the Yugoslav army in the province, including heavy armour, artillery, infantry and special forces.

The source said Nato feared Serbia may use its success in averting Nato's air strikes to try to smash the Albanian rebels of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) before peace talks restart on 15 March.

British troops meanwhile landed yesterday at the Greek port of Salonica to join the Nato-led peace-keepers. The 225 troops from the 17th Air and Maritime Squadron will form part of a 28,000-strong force in Kosovo if a peace deal between Serbs and Kosovo's Albanians is signed.

But British soldiers will not be necessary if Belgrade's officials were correct in their claim that they had scuttled any chance of foreign intervention.

The Serb media described the outcome of the talks at Rambouillet as an unalloyed triumph for the government's policy of keeping foreign troops out of the southern province.

On arrival at Belgrade, Serbia's President, Milan Milutinovic, said: "Our efforts to preserve the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our country were affirmed." He dismissed attempts to pressure Serbia into accepting Nato peace-keepers as a farce.

Kosovo's tiny Serb community was also satisfied that the air strikes the US had pressed for had been averted. "Americans want to try to change history, but sometimes it just doesn't work," said Dusko Arandjelovic in the capital, Pristina. "Kosovo is Serbian, no matter what campaign the West launches."

With the US and Britain virtually isolated in wanting to take a tough line against Belgrade the Serbs may be correct in assuming they have weathered the worst.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, insisted yesterday that air strikes were still a possibility if the Serbs engaged in a "disproportionate response" to the KLA or took violent reprisals against civilians.

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Jasper learns lessons of race hate

THE TOWN of Jasper will start to breathe again today, as its traumatic year in the spotlight draws to a close. The murder of a black man, dragged to his death behind a pick-up truck, has focused attention on white race hatred and made the town into a symbol of larger national problems.

John William King, found guilty on Tuesday of killing James Byrd in June last year, will be sentenced today and the death penalty is an option.

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Jasper

In court yesterday, King stared blankly ahead. Wearing a bullet-proof vest and a turtle-neck to hide Nazi SS tattoos, he was flanked by Texas Rangers in their customary stonions.

There were journalists from across the US, and security was tight to stop any demonstrations of the type that have shocked Jasper over the past year. The Ku-Klux-Klan and

other white supremacist groups have used the trial to gain publicity. In response, black groups such as the New Black Panthers have staged counter-demonstrations, raising fears that they would clash in the courthouse square.

If Mr King is sentenced to death, there will be few tears shed for him in Jasper. Mr Byrd's sister, Stella Bromley, said yesterday that the killer should receive the most severe penalty allowed by the

law: "If that is the death penalty, then I welcome it."

Customers in June Bug's Club and Grill, one of the few places alcohol is sold locally, said they hoped Mr King would get the death penalty, and regretted the image that the town had acquired. "This is not a hate community," said Ray Parton, who works for the local radio station.

The Rev Jesse Jackson, a black community leader, said: "Justice has been served and it

closes one chapter in this tragic story." But he opposed the death penalty. "Killing will not stop race supremacists. Capital punishment is not a deterrent for crimes such as those committed by Mr King, and it will not be a deterrent."

Two more suspects, Shawn Berry and Lawrence Russell Brewer, will go on trial shortly. With Mr King, they were said to have planned to set up a local chapter of a racist group, the Confederate Knights of

America. The horrifying manner of Mr Byrd's killing has focused America's attention on racism.

He was picked up while walking down a country road and, according to prosecutors, was beaten up and chained to the back of the truck. Still alive, he was dragged for miles. His head and arm were torn from his body, and his remains were dumped at the gates of the town cemetery.

Jasper, population 8,000, is

mixed, with a black mayor and a white sheriff. Over the past year, the town has tried to learn from the murder, and to break down some of the barriers of race. There have been prayer vigils, and meetings to discuss the problems of racism.

The townspeople were relieved by the verdict. "You can't put up with this stuff, you can't tolerate it," said the Jasper County District Attorney, Guy James Gray.

Civil rights activists want to

use the incident to press for tougher penalties against "hate" crimes involving race, gender, sexual orientation or religion.

Kwesi Mfume, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, said: "The verdict in the James Byrd trial is a sad victory. Hate is still a very destructive force in America and requires the strongest sanctions and penalties that the law can provide."

Grammys cover gloom with glitz

THERE HASN'T been much to celebrate in the American music industry recently, what with corporate restructuring, mass layoffs and the looming threat of competition from the Internet. So there was only ever one way to stop last night's 41st Grammy awards ceremony, the industry's annual exercise in self-congratulation, from sinking into introspective gloom and doom: giving it a Hollywood-style makeover.

More than ever, there was a whiff of Oscar fever about the proceedings, with fashion designers falling over themselves to dress the stars, journalists hyping the event weeks in advance, organisers inventing yet more prizes in an event already groaning under the weight of more than 90 different categories, and record companies dreaming up ever canner spin-offs including, for the first time, a "1999 Grammy Nominees" album being put out by CBS, the same media conglomerate that owns the television broadcast rights to the event.

After two straight years in New York, the Grammys even moved into one of the two Los Angeles homes of the Oscars, the Shrine Auditorium. As with the Oscars, television advertisers forked out premium rates - up

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

to half a million dollars for a 30-second slot - to capitalise on the expected vast audience figures.

As for the music, much of the advance excitement focused on Lauryn Hill, the hip hop singer and former member of the Fugees who led the pack with 10 nominations, including best new artist and album of the year for her solo debut *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*. In an awards ceremony usually dominated by middle-of-the-road, mainstream fare, Ms Hill's presence was being widely seen as a much-needed breath of fresh air. Her competitors in the best album category were Madonna for *Ray of Light*, Shania Twain for *Come On Over*, Sheryl Crow for *The Globe Sessions*, and Garbage - the US band fronted by Scottish singer Shirley Manson - for *Version 2.0*. Sheryl Crow was up for five awards and Madonna for a good night for women artists all round.

Beyond the headline artists, however, the evening promised little in the way of innovation or true celebration of the new. Just the list of British artists up for awards - among them Eric



Eric Clapton (left) practises with B B King for their performance at the 41st annual Grammy awards in Los Angeles

Chris Pizzello/AP

Clapton, Sting, Elvis Costello and Boy George - looked awfully tired, a roster of past greats who in most cases are no longer producing their best work.

With other nominees including The Temptations, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder,

Buddy Guy, Etta James and B B King, one had to wonder if this was a contemporary music awards ceremony or some kind of Sixties and Seventies nostalgia trip.

One of the most widely praised albums of the year, Lucinda Williams's *Car Wheels on a Gravel Road* made only the nomination list in the Contemporary Folk category. Far more prominence was given to Celine Dion's *My Heart Will Go On*, her ubiquitous anthem from the movie *Titanic*, which was up for three awards even though the film came out in 1997, not 1998.

Such conservatism reflects an industry that is growing ever more corporate and correspondingly less daring. In the past few weeks, a slew of well-known labels, including A&M, Geffen, Mercury, Island and Motown, have been swallowed up by the Universal

Music Group, owned by the Canadian conglomerate Seagram.

More than 200 artists are expected to lose their contracts, and sacked executives fear that truly innovative new artists will be squeezed out by commercial pressures.

The latter believe they have more chance of clinging to power by submitting to Moscow's patronage than facing an electorate worn down by economic depression and fed up with corruption and cronyism.

Threat to scrap Russian ballots

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

RUSSIA'S PRIME Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, wants to scrap an important component of the country's hesitant and half-baked democracy - elected governorships.

Elections for the leadership of Russia's 89 regions and republics became universal only two years ago but Mr Primakov is now suggesting that the constitution is changed - some time after this year - to introduce a system in which the President presents a shortlist of candidates to regional parliaments, who then select a governor from it. Mr Primakov's suggestion is viewed by his critics as an attempt to garner support from the powerful regional leadership for his probable presidential bid.

Although some popularist heavyweights - including Yuri Luzhkov in Moscow, and Alexander Lebed in Krasnoyarsk - may balk at the idea of answering to the Kremlin, other regional leaders favour the plan.

The latter believe they have more chance of clinging to power by submitting to Moscow's patronage than facing an electorate worn down by economic depression and fed up with corruption and cronyism.

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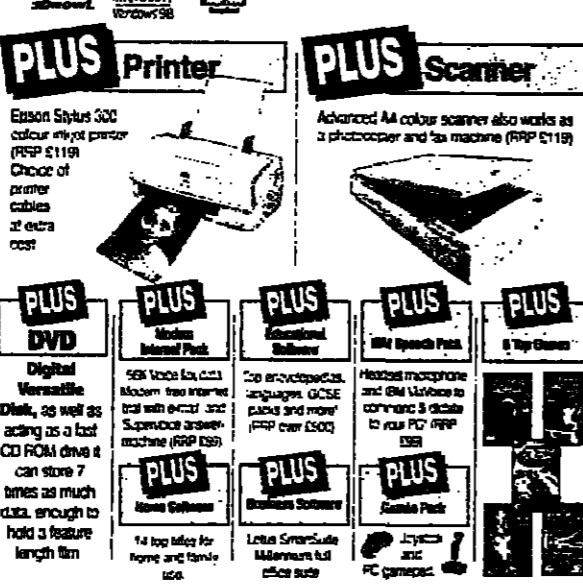


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Chinese jet crashes after mid-air blast

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

AN INTERNAL flight crashed near the eastern Chinese city of Wenzhou yesterday, killing all 61 people on board and hindering the country's attempts to improve its reputation for air safety.

The aircraft, a Russian-made Tupolev 154, was the same make as the aircraft involved in China's worst civil air disaster, in June 1994, when 160 people were killed.

The China Southwest Airlines flight had nearly completed its journey from the western city of Chengdu to Wenzhou, in Zhejiang province. One report said there was a mid-air explosion before the plane came down near the town of Ruian, in the late afternoon.

An official in the Communist Party office at Wenzhou airport said the aircraft was in radio contact as it descended to 1,000 metres. "Afterward it came down 700 metres and contact was lost." Another report said the plane had crashed in a hilly area, injuring at least two people on the ground.

Since China's mid-1994 air disaster, the sixth domestic crash in less than two years, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) had put consid-



erable effort into improving the country's abysmal internal air record. In contrast, Air China's international civil airline has never suffered a crash.

Many older domestic planes have been retired, air traffic control improved and a string of better-equipped airports have opened. Until yesterday there had been only one air disaster since June 1994, that of a Boeing 737, which crash-landed in May 1997 at Shenzhen airport.

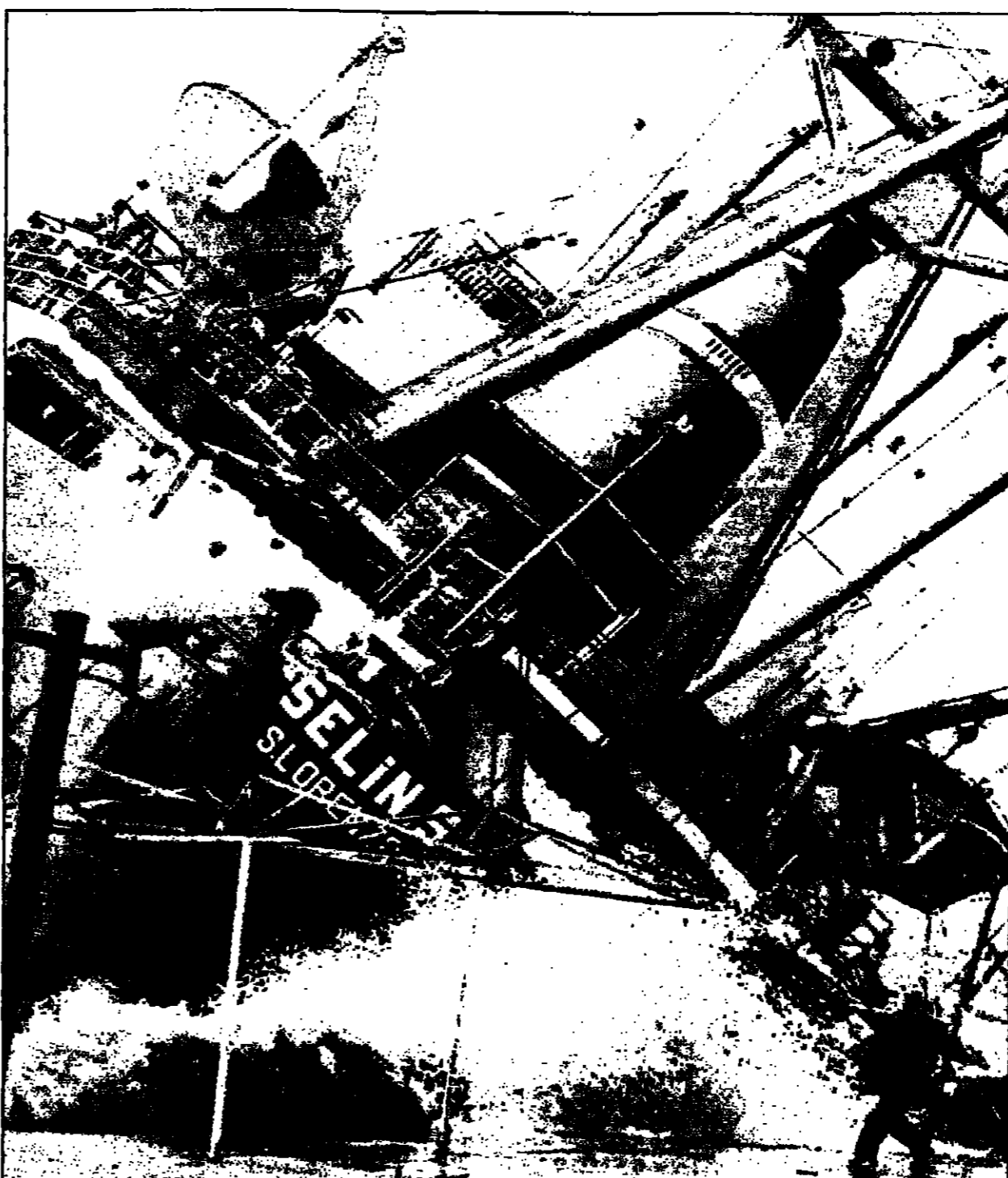
For the past two weeks, China's civil airlines have been working at maximum capacity to cope with the new year, as millions of people return home. Extra flights had been laid on around the country.

Investigators are likely to focus first on the airworthiness of the aircraft, four of the eight civilian air crashes since July 1992 have involved Soviet or

Russian manufactured planes. As well as aircraft quality, China is trying to upgrade air traffic control systems and yesterday announced a 10 billion yuan (£750m) investment in its network "to reduce traffic hazards and accidents". The plan involves setting up 10 principal traffic management centres to replace the current 37 smaller centres, said the CAAC. It is scheduled for completion by 2010.

Chen Xuhua, director of the CAAC's Air Traffic Management Bureau, said: "As a result of increased investment in safety projects, Chinese airlines did not have a single accident because of control factors in the 1.5 million flights completed last year." All but three of the busiest air routes are still controlled by the air force, but within two years air traffic control on another 21 routes will be transferred to the CAAC.

Last night, the CAAC was giving out no information on the crash, but the official Xinhua news agency did report basic details about the disaster. Until five years ago, China often withheld any mention of air crashes from its media for several days, and has been criticised for lack of co-operation with foreign aircraft manufacturers after crashes.



Container ship Selin S is hit by waves as it lies stranded in the Marmara Sea off Istanbul, Turkey, yesterday. Two people were missing and tens of boats damaged in the storm which caused waves up to seven metres high AP

Spice Island's battle of bows

BY DIARMID O'SULLIVAN
in Jakarta

AT LEAST six people were reported killed as Christian and Muslim gangs fought each other with spears and bows and arrows on the Indonesian Spice Island of Ambon yesterday. Dozens of houses on the outskirts of Ambon city were burning as men with knives stopped drivers to check their religion.

Streets were deserted in Ambon and people barricaded themselves into their houses to escape the latest flare-up in a communal war that has blazed for more than a month and cost more than 100 lives.

Guns are hard to come by in remote parts of Indonesia, and people are using basic weaponry in the many conflicts that have surfaced since the overthrow of President Suharto last May.

Ambon is the heart of the fabled Spice Islands, whose nutmeg and cloves helped to turn the Netherlands into an imperial power three centuries ago. Most original residents are Christian but many Muslims from nearby islands have settled on the island. Last month, a shipload of Muslim men from Sulawesi planned to set out for Ambon to fight alongside their immigrant compatriots. They were intercepted by the authorities and turned back.

In Ambon, Muslim fighters wear white headbands and Christians red ones. Ironically, the two colours make up the Indonesian flag.

Since Suharto's fall, the region's economic and political crises have put religious tolerance under growing pressure. Many people in Jakarta believe the former president or some of his followers are stirring up communal violence to slow down political reform and to protect themselves against being put on trial.

Troops flown into Ambon have opened fire on crowds in a vain attempt to stop the fighting. Three of the dead yesterday were said to have been shot by troops. There were also reports of a soldier being hacked to death.

French rap singer jailed for punching air hostess

JOEY STARR, one of the most popular French rap musicians, was jailed for two months yesterday after being found guilty of insulting and beating up a female flight attendant at a hotel lobby in Montpellier in the south of France last year.

Starr, 32, whose real name is Didier Morville, is lead singer

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

with the group NTM, formerly known as Nique la Mère (which means, literally "screw your mother"). At his trial in September, he admitted insulting and striking Lucie Mustel but claimed she had slapped him

after he commented on her looks. "I just said to my brother that the myth of the good-looking air hostess had collapsed," he said.

Witnesses said that Morville shouted obscenities at Ms Mustel and punched her in the face. Ms Mustel, who received severe facial injuries, was off work for

12 days. She has accepted an out-of-court settlement from the singer in compensation.

Her lawyer said she had dropped her own legal action against the rapper because she did not want "to get mixed up with those who are trying to prosecute NTM" rather than Morville.

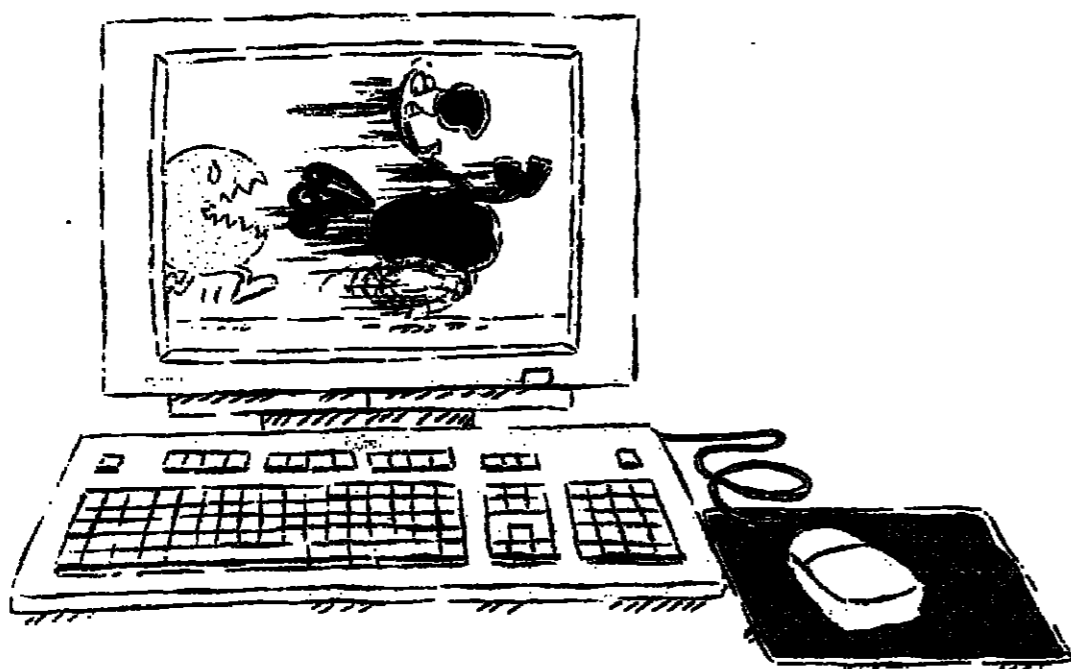
NTM, which began in the deprived inner-Parisian suburbs, has become one of France's most popular groups. The band has become a bugbear of French conservatives and the far-right, with a series of songs that appear to preach violence and racial intolerance. The singer was also fined

€3,000. The public prosecutor had called for him to be jailed, pointing out that Morville had two previous convictions for violent conduct.

■ Demonstrators angered by the death of a popular reggae singer in jail rampaged through the Mauritian capital, Port Louis, for the third day, hurling

firebombs at police stations and wounding 30 officers. The violence erupted on Monday, a day after the death of reggae star Kaya, who had been arrested for smoking marijuana at a rally to promote legalisation of the drug. Many Mauritians assume that Kaya was beaten to death by police.

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BRIEFING

Gucci shareholders 'ecstatic'

THE CHAIRMAN of the Gucci luxury goods group yesterday launched a further attack on its arch-rival LVMH and claimed his plan to issue 20 million new Gucci shares had the backing of US shareholders. After several days in the US explaining his reasons for issuing new Gucci shares to dilute the 34 per cent stake of LVMH, Domenico de Sole said: "They are fully supportive. They are ecstatic. One even sent me a letter saying our action was 'an elegant solution'. Many were worried about what they saw as an attempt to gain control without paying a premium."

Logica on the lookout



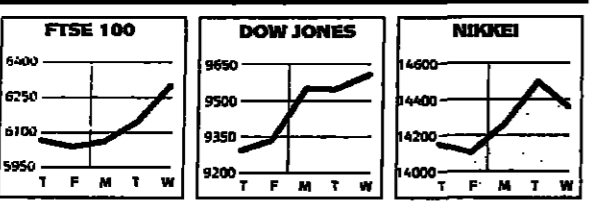
LOGICA, the computer services group, is still on the hunt for acquisitions after buying seven small companies last year. "All our acquisitions fit into a certain template," said Martin Read, chief executive (pictured). "There's no reason we couldn't do more."

Dr Read said the company was keen to build up its presence in the US and Germany, as well as Sweden. He was speaking as Logica reported pre-tax profits of £26m for the six months to December, an increase of 67 per cent, on revenues up 35 per cent at £282m. Logica shares closed down 10p at 863.5p.

B&B trumpets mutual benefits

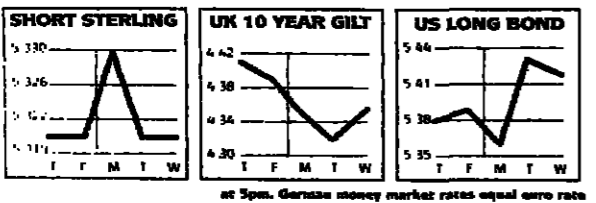
BRADFORD & BINGLEY, the building society fighting moves to force it to become a bank, yesterday trumpeted a 71 per cent jump in new mortgage lending last year and launched initiatives to promote the benefits of its mutual status. The society became the first lender to introduce a homebuyers' service, allowing buyers to see a survey before making an offer and take out insurance against hitches in the buying process. It also launched a series of Personal Equity Plans. The society's 2.5m members will vote in April on a proposal from Stephen Major, a plumber from Lisburn, Northern Ireland, for the society to take steps towards plc status.

STOCK MARKETS



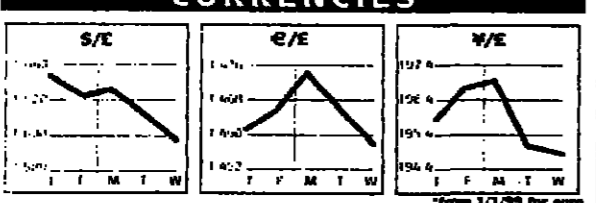
Index	Close	Change	% Chg	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yr Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6307.60	152.40	2.48	6195.60	4599.20	2.55
FTSE 250	5220.20	33.80	0.65	5070.90	4247.60	3.23
FTSE 350	2974.40	64.00	2.20	2969.10	2210.40	2.65
FTSE All Share	2871.61	59.23	2.11	2886.52	2143.53	2.69
FTSE SmallCap	2368.50	3.10	0.13	2393.80	1834.40	3.56
FTSE Fledgling	1238.80	1.80	0.15	1317.10	1046.20	4.47
FTSE AIM	824.90	1.20	0.15	1146.90	761.30	1.15
FTSE Eurotop 100	2881.07	36.06	1.27	3079.27	2018.15	2.05
FTSE Eurotop 300	1249.92	14.53	1.18	1332.07	880.83	1.95
Dow Jones	9563.34	18.12	0.19	9647.96	7400.30	1.62
Nikkei	14355.45	-145.20	-1.00	17352.35	12787.90	1.01
Hang Seng	9677.57	243.58	2.58	11926.16	6544.79	3.64
Dax	5062.31	74.75	1.50	6217.83	3933.71	1.69
S&P 500	1271.29	6.02	0.47	1283.64	923.32	1.24
Nasdaq	2389.60	13.36	0.56	2533.44	1357.09	0.27
Toronto 300	6457.20	2.46	0.04	7837.70	5320.90	1.66
Brazil Bovespa	8944.32	1.64	0.02	12339.14	4575.69	6.93
Belgium BeX20	3405.25	-39.05	-1.13	3713.21	2681.92	2.08
Amsterdam AEX	538.84	2.15	0.40	600.65	366.58	1.91
France CAC 40	4213.70	5.75	0.14	4404.94	2881.21	3.87
Spain IBEX 35	3601.00	60.00	1.70	3810.00	2415.00	1.13
Madrid BMV 35	10224.60	96.80	0.95	10589.80	6869.90	1.73
Irish Allshare	5305.62	37.01	0.70	5581.70	3732.57	1.54
S Korea Comp	498.42	-4.46	-0.89	651.95	277.37	0.11
Australia ASX	1050.00	0.36	0.03	2948.70	2386.70	3.15

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	Yr. chg.	10 year	Yr. chg.	Long bond	Yr. chg.
UK	5.44	-2.13	-4.78	-2.25	4.35	-1.68	4.36	-1.61
US	5.00	-0.54	5.11	-0.39	5.10	0.57	5.42	0.64
Japan	0.25	-0.58	0.11	-0.49	1.98	0.13	3.14	0.66
Germany	3.03	-4.42	3.02	-0.72	3.89	-1.08	4.80	-0.74

CURRENCIES



Index	Close	Change	% Chg	10 yr high	10 yr low	Yr. chg.
Pound	1.5381	-0.01	-0.66	1.5495	1.4695	0.6062
Dollar	1.4569	-0.01	-0.69	1.4079	1.2109	0.8573
Euro	104.84	-1.10	-1.05	105.95	102.95	127.96
Yen	101.00	-0.40	-0.40	104.80	100.50	108.50

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Change	% Chg	10 yr high	10 yr low	Yr. chg.
US GDP (Q3)	10.63	-0.19	-1.8	13.10	8.50	1.1
US GDP (Q4)	287.75	0.30	0.1	291.50	281.50	1.5
US GDP (Yr)	5.50	-0.01	-0.2	6.39	4.50	1.2

Source: Bloomberg

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4456	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.51
Austria (schillings)	19.57	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1335
Belgium (francs)	57.49	New Zealand (\$)	2.8754
Canada (\$)	2.3450	Norway (kroner)	12.38
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8224	Portugal (escudos)	283.68
Denmark (kroner)	10.66	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8645
Finland (markka)	8.4996	Singapore (\$)	2.6213
France (francs)	9.3517	South Africa (rand)	9.6077
Germany (marks)	2.7947	Spain (pesetas)	236.52
Greece (drachmas)	460.47	Sweden (kronor)	12.77
Hong Kong (\$)	12.09	Switzerland (francs)	2.2802
Ireland (pounds)	1.1190	Thailand (bahts)	54.24
India (rupees)	61.54	Turkey (liras)	543848
Israel (shekels)	6.0457	USA (\$)	1.9720
Italy (lire)	2766		
Japan (yen)	191.56		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8637		
Malta (lira)	0.6116		

Source: Thomas Cook

SHARE PRICES in London jumped to a new high yesterday, with the FTSE 100 index gaining 152.4 points to end at 6,307.6.

The index has climbed 7 per cent so far this year, pushed ahead by the string of special dividends in recent days. It stands 2 per cent higher than the previous closing high of 6,179.0 in July, having regained all of the ground lost during last autumn's financial market turmoil.

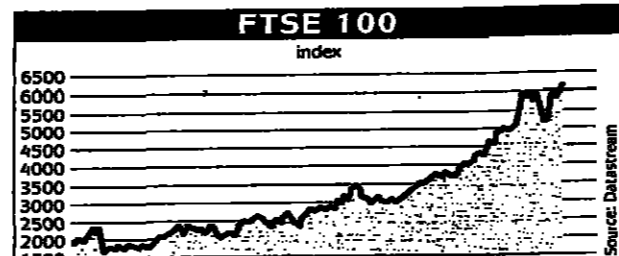
The pound fell sharply yesterday as the currency markets absorbed the plans for Britain to join the euro. Prime Minister Tony Blair's description of the changeover plan as a "change of gear" was read as a signal of the Government's enthusiasm

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

to take the UK into the single currency.

Tuesday's trade figures, showing the deficit last year climbing to its highest for a decade, also weighed on sterling.

The pound fell below \$1.60 to its lowest level since October 1997, down from Tuesday's \$1.6140. The strength of the dollar across the board means the pound has lost 4 per cent of its value against the US currency this year. It also weakened slightly against the euro yesterday, reaching a level of 68.6p, down from 68.2p to the euro.



Analysts said share prices were reacting to Centrica's £50m payout to shareholders, the latest in a series of special dividends now adding up to more than £7bn. It followed the £5bn from Unilever on Tuesday, and special dividends worth £1.5bn and £236m announced by the Halifax and Woolwich respectively last week.

However, there were other reasons for the stockmarket to make such strong gains.

"There has been a consistent flow of positive surprises. A new FTSE record was inevitable," said Philip Isherwood,

equity strategist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

Few of the corporate results reported so far this season have been disappointing, and most analysts expect further merger activity.

In addition, UK pension and insurance funds are still holding record amounts of cash. "Pension funds are significantly underweight in FTSE shares," said Mr Isherwood.

The flow of cash into the market is being boosted by private investors, many putting money into private equity plans ahead of the end of the tax year.

Shares in the UK got a helping hand from Wall Street, which reacted favourably to the second

day of testimony to Congress by Alan Greenspan. The Chairman of the US Federal Reserve emphasised there were risks to the outlook for the US economy. This was seen as a hint of higher interest rates, although he indicated that the Fed was prepared to move them in either direction. However, Mr Greenspan's forecasts for growth and inflation in the US remained very favourable.

The Dow Jones index was nearly 18 points higher, at 9,562.01, by noon.

Shares were higher in Europe too. The biggest advances were Frankfurt, up nearly 1 per cent, and Milan, where the index ended 1.7 per cent higher.

Centrica to pay out extra £530m

CENTRICA YESTERDAY rewarded the loyal army of Sids who have stuck with the company since the break-up of British Gas by announcing a £530m special dividend for its 1.3 million shareholders.

The 12p-a-share payout is the first dividend from Centrica, the trading and supply arm of British Gas, since it was demerged from the pipeline and exploration division, BG, two years ago.

The £530m distribution, equivalent to 10 per cent of Centrica's market capitalisation, came as Centrica made its first pre-tax profit and said it planned bids for both the RAC's roadside breakdown service and National Power's giant Drax power station in Yorkshire.

Centrica's ambitious expansion plans will also see it boost its services division into a £750m-a-year business within three years. Among the additional services Centrica may offer to its 15.5 million customers are car insurance, elec-

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

trical repairs, home shopping and a remote diagnostic service for the "robotic" home of the future. Mortgages may also be offered alongside its successful Goldfish credit card, which now has 500,000 customers.

Centrica also claimed it was winning the war in the energy market, saying it had now signed up more than 1 million electricity customers, giving it 4 per cent of the market - more households than the smallest regional electricity company, Swalec.

The aim is to capture 4 million electricity customers to offset the 4 million gas customers it has lost since the domestic market was liberalised in 1996.

Roy Gardner, chief executive, said Centrica could do this without buying a regional electricity company. Last year Centrica spent £86m building up its electricity business.

Centrica intends to bid for Drax, Britain's biggest power



Roy Gardner (right), chief executive, and Mark Clare, finance director, announcing the pay-out yesterday 10m Craig

station with an output of 4,000 megawatts, as part of a consortium. It may pair up with one of the bidders that has pulled out of the auction for the two coal-fired stations being sold by PowerGen, Ferrybridge and Fiddlers Ferry.

There are thought to be three bidders left in the PowerGen auction - British Energy, Scottish and Southern Energy and the US utility NRG.

Mr Gardner would not be drawn on how much Centrica was prepared to bid for the

RAC's motoring services arm. But it is certain to be substantially less than the £450m offered by Centand of the US before its bid was blocked.

The special 12p a share dividend is payable in June and is being accompanied by a nine for

10 share consolidation. Centrica also intends to pay a dividend of 2.5p for the current year. Pre-tax profits were £89m, compared with a £791m loss in 1997, after charges linked to the unwinding of take-or-pay gas contracts. Outlook, page 21

RMC may enter £1bn bid battle for Scancem

RMC, the building materials group, is considering entering a £1bn-plus bid battle for Scancem, the Scandinavian rival that owns Castle Cement, the UK's second-biggest cement producer.

Industry sources said RMC's interest in the Swedish group would trigger a fierce bid war with several European rivals, including CRH, the Irish building materials giant, and France's Lafarge. Europe's largest maker of construction products.

The companies declined to comment last night but insiders said that the three groups are set to table an indicative offer for Scancem before tomorrow's deadline. City analysts said the initial bids would be pitched at around £1bn, in line with the group's market value on the Stockholm stock exchange.

Scancem, which is jointly

owned by Skanska, the Swedish construction giant, and the Norwegian conglomerate Aker, is a prized asset in Europe's fiercely competitive building materials market.

The Stockholm-based group is one of Europe's leading cement producers with a dominant market share in the Nordic countries and operations across the globe. Last year it had sales of more than 17,560 Swedish Kronas (£1.35bn) and profits of over £150m.

Skanska and Aker put the company on sale at the end of last year after European Union anti-trust authorities called for a break-up of the group to reduce its share of the Scandinavian cement market.

The two owners, which control over 90 per cent of the voting rights in Scancem, have

still not decided whether to sell the group as a whole or to dispose of its components separately.

The second option would increase the likelihood of a bid by RMC and CRH for Castle Cement, one of Scancem's crown jewels. The UK company commands a 25 per cent share of Britain's cement market, the second largest after Blue Circle's 45 per cent but ahead of Rugby's 20 per cent. Castle is currently undergoing a £50m modernisation programme to upgrade its plants and reduce costs.

Analysts said a victory by RMC could dramatically change the structure of the UK market as it would create a "one-stop materials shop" offering anything from aggregates, used in roadbuilding and houses, to cement, used in heavy civil engineering projects.

Cellnet Internet service to link e-mail and phone

CELLNET, the mobile phone operator, yesterday jumped on the Internet bandwagon by launching a free Internet service which will also allow customers to receive messages on their mobile phones.

Cellnet will launch the Internet service next month, to be called Genie Internet, which will mimic existing offerings such as Dixons' Freeserve by not charging a monthly subscription fee.

The service will initially be targeted at young customers of its "U" pay-as-you-go service, but will shortly be extended to all other users, who will be sent a CD-Rom containing the required software.

Customers who sign up to the service will receive an email address and access to a web site offering a range of news and information. They will also be able to set up a messaging sys-

tem, which sends brief text messages to their mobile phones alerting them to news flashes, sports scores, or the arrival of a new email.

The move is a precursor to the arrival, probably later this year, of mobile terminals that will allow users to access the Internet over a mobile phone network.

"We clearly see the markets of data and mobile coming together and we want to be first," said Peter Erskine, Cellnet's managing director.

The move is also designed to discourage customers from defecting to other networks following the introduction last month of number portability in the mobile phone market.

At the moment, mobile phone networks are too slow to be able to send or receive large volumes

of data. However, Cellnet is planning to upgrade its network with new software next year, which will allow data to be transferred at the same speed as the fastest fixed-line modem.

The introduction of the third generation of mobile phone networks in three to four years' time is expected to make mobile Internet access and electronic commerce widespread.

Cellnet is currently in talks with Microsoft, which recently formed a strategic alliance with Cellnet's majority shareholder British Telecom, and Symbian, the joint venture between Psion and the world's leading mobile phone manufacturer, about what form the new Internet-enabled handsets will take.

The Genie website has been up and running for 18 months, but has only attracted 100,000 users from its customer base of 3.5m.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUE CHIPS romped to a new peak with Footsie gaining 152.4 points to 6,307.6. It was the first time the index has been above 6,300. New York strength, the pound's weakness against the US dollar and hopes that interest rates will go even lower spurred the advance.

Supporting shares, although higher, displayed none of the enthusiasm of their blue chip peers. HSBC, the banking group, led the charge, gaining 113p to 1,789p on hopes that the Hong Kong government will give up its 8.81 per cent stake in the bank.

NEW YORK

WALL STREET was dominated by the Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's testimony to Congress, with dealers waiting to see if he would elaborate on his earlier warning about high stock valuations during the question and answer session.

The Dow Jones index fell back after making early gains and by late morning was just 28.25 higher at 9,572.67. Technology shares were in demand, led by Internet stocks, especially Infoseek, Netscape, AOL and Micron Technology.

TOKYO

THE NIKKEI 225 share index fell back late in the day and ended down 145.20 at 14,365.45 after failing to break through the "barrier" at 14,500. Traders said the weakness reflected steady selling attributed to the unwinding of cross-shareholdings ahead of the end of the fiscal year on 31 March.

Matsushita Electric, Sony and Kirin were among the fallers. Shares in the real estate sector bucked the trend on hopes of an injection of public funds, and investors hunted for bargains among small and medium sized companies.

HONG KONG

SHARE PRICES closed sharply higher in Hong Kong, driven by fresh buying ahead of the expiry of the February futures contract. The Hang Seng index closed 243.58 higher at 9,677.57, but 60 points below the high point for the day.

Property and bank shares led the way after recently underperforming. HSBC alone rose HK\$5 to HK\$211.00 after touching HK\$214.00. Wing Lung Bank, Hang Seng Bank and Bank of East Asia also gained up to 3 per cent.

FRANKFURT

GERMAN SHARES gained ground and the Xetra Dax climbed 46.06 to 5,058.66.

Roche, the chemicals group, rose 2.26 to 43.86 euros on rumours of an impending bid, and Allianz put on 7.70 to 282.70 euros after reporting a sharp rise in earnings. However, Volkswagen shares fell steeply, falling 12.45 per cent at its worst after the company said it would be hard-pressed to exceed last year's profits. The shares rallied but closed with losses of 3.45 euros or 5.14 per cent at 63.60 euros.

Knives out after nightmare on Baker St

PETER SALSBUURY, the new broom at Marks & Spencer, has not been in the hot seat for long, but he is already generating a great deal of noise. In just a few weeks he has managed to squeeze in a calamitous profits warning and now a management reshuffle. The latter is welcome because M&S had just about the biggest board in Christendom. At its peak not long ago it was 23 members strong. This might make you wonder how anyone ever got to have their say, only the answer to that is now obvious: they didn't. Sir Richard Greenbury never let them.

Among the three directors whose chairs have been taken away is Chris Littmoden, head of US operations. His departure may have a deeper significance. His exit means that Mr Salsbury's two main rivals for the top job have both been forced to walk the plank. Keith Oates, remember, has already gone. Anyone would think Mr Salsbury has instituted a policy of bayoneting his wounded, but surely he is too "nice" for that.

The other interpretation is that he



OUTLOOK

is about to offload Brooks Brothers and Kay's in the US, which have proved to be two of the group's more troublesome children. The company has denied this, but the any such decision would plainly have some logic. After years of under-performance since its over-priced purchase 10 years ago, Brooks is finally making a half decent return, and so might attract a reasonable price. A sale would also allow management to concentrate on the real issue, which is putting the UK business back on track.

The pruning of nearly a third of the group's senior management is a step in the right direction at this over-layered bureaucracy. But Mr Salsbury needs to go further. Even after these modest cuts, M&S's head office at Baker Street will still employ 4,000 people. Talk of further 500-1,000 to go at the Baker Street bunker cannot be far off the truth.

All this is only the beginning. There are still major strategic issues to resolve, such as the degree to which the company should resort to overseas buying as well as its recent merchandising mistakes. Yesterday's share bounce gives Mr Salsbury a welcome following wind, but in truth the jury is still very much out.

Underwriting

SO THAT'S it then. After a year-long investigation, presumably at a cost of several hundreds of thousands of pounds, the MMC has produced a report on the City underwriting cartel which is a masterpiece of irrelevance and a warning to all of the dangers

of overly theoretical thinking on entirely practical matters.

The irrelevance of it first. Surprisingly, the MMC finds that a cartel does exist in sub-underwriting of the new issues market, and that this operates against the public interest, in that fees would be lower but for its existence. Nobody would disagree very much with that general observation.

However, since hardly anyone raises money in the new issues market any longer - to the contrary, the overwhelming trend is towards the redemption of equity capital - this doesn't seem terribly important.

Circumstances could change, of course, and the new issues market might pick up again. But given the range of alternative markets now available to vendors, and companies seeking to raise more capital, the cartel's power is probably on the wane anyway.

In any case, it is not clear that the system of fixed commissions used in the City new issues market does in all cases operate against the public interest. Take the recent fiasco of an

attempt to float William Hill, where an American style book building approach was adopted. Investors naturally moved to bid down the vendors as far as they could, forcing repeated cuts in the price. In a traditionally underwritten offer for sale, this could not have happened. The issue would by now have been away at the higher end of the range of expectations and it would also have been a success.

With rights issues too, it is by no means clear that the system operates against the interests of all clients. Very large companies would of course see a considerable fall in the costs of raising new capital if fixed commissions were abandoned, but for small and medium sized companies the effect would be the very reverse. This would indeed be perverse, given that to the extent that there is demand for fresh equity capital at present, it comes from smaller enterprises, not from big ones.

As it happens, the MMC has backed away from suggesting anything precipitous in terms of remedies. The worst it can come up with

is that directors explain themselves to shareholders when they use the traditional underwriting cartel. It is hard to avoid looking at yesterday's MMC report without thinking - why did they bother?

Centrica

THE UGLY duckling has finally emerged as a swan, or to be more accurate, a golden goose laying a big fat £30m egg. When British Gas was demerged two years ago, giving birth to separate transportation and supply companies, Centrica was very much the runt of the litter.

With complaints at an all-time high and customers deserting in droves, Centrica looked destined for a short and unpleasant life. To boot it was saddled with £30m worth of ruinous take-or-pay contracts, signed in an era when British Gas thought its domestic monopoly would never end.

The contracts had the capacity to sink the company, which is why the prospectus was accompanied by a

large health warning from the BG chairman, Sir Dick Giordano, advising all Sids to abandon ship. Just over 300,000 of them did. But a further 1.3 million hung on. Yesterday they were duly rewarded with the announcement of the company's first ever dividend.

Customers too are feeling more positive. When Centrica demerged it insisted on retaining the rights to the British Gas name. At the time this looked like a sick joke, not a prized asset. Today Centrica is turning the tables on the competition. Having given up a quarter of its market share, customers have started to return.

Now Centrica is preparing to leverage that customer base - still nearly 16 million households - to sell the world everything from car breakdown and insurance services to mortgages and home shopping. One day not too far distant, providing financial services may be a bigger business than repairing boilers. The turnaround is an astonishing one, and a real credit to the dynamo in charge, Roy Gardner.



Sir Peter Davis (left), Pru chief executive, with Jonathon Bloomer, finance director: Profits hit £360m Eye Catchers

Pru drops plan to buy UK bank

THE PRUDENTIAL, Britain's largest life insurance company, has given up its ambition to acquire a UK mortgage bank following the runaway success of Egg, its new banking business.

Deposits taken since last year's launch have topped £3bn, with more than 250,000 accounts opened so far.

Sir Peter Davis, the Pru's chief executive, said yesterday that, with the response running ahead of expectations, the start-up costs in 1999 will be a third higher than forecast at £100m, although the group is sticking to its pledge that Egg should be in the black by 2001.

Profits for the year just gone were up 3 per cent to £260m after including a £77m hit for Egg last year.

Sir Peter was also enthusiastic about the take-up of Egg's Internet arm, reflecting the young dynamic client base it is building.

"Are we buying customers? Of course we are. But the cost per customer is cheaper than it would be if we acquired a UK mortgage bank. If we went out and bought, say, the Alliance & Leicester, we would have to pay out £150m a year. That is on top of the £5bn it would cost," he said. "We are quite serious in what we are doing."

At the current rate of growth,

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

Egg is set to overtake both the Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester although rivals say they expect growth to slow once the volume target is reached and the rates offered to customers start to fall to more sustainable levels.

The Pru has also ruled out any further acquisitions in the life insurance (independent financial adviser) sector. But Sir Peter said that he was still on the look-out for deals to strengthen the business elsewhere in the UK, Europe and Asia.

The group, which has £400m of cash in the bank, could return the money to shareholders but had yet to decide on a buyback.

Analysts were also cheered by signs of recovery in the mainstream UK business after the bad publicity over pensions mis-selling followed by the restructuring which led to 1,000 of the group's 4,000 workforce leaving the firm. UK operating profits excluding Egg were up 7 per cent at £475m.

The group is in the process of negotiating a new pay package with its UK salesforce, which links rewards to the quality of business and standards of customer service rather than to sales volume alone.

City fees are too high, says Byers

THE CITY overcharges quoted companies for raising capital on the equity markets, Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has concluded.

Mr Byers - who yesterday published the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on share underwriting - said there was evidence of a complex monopoly in sub-underwriting, the process via which lead underwriters pass on their risk to other investors.

This had been found by the MMC to operate against the public interest, Mr Byers said. In particular, the practice of charging standard fees for sub-underwriting resulted in "issuing companies being charged higher fees than otherwise". However, he decided against

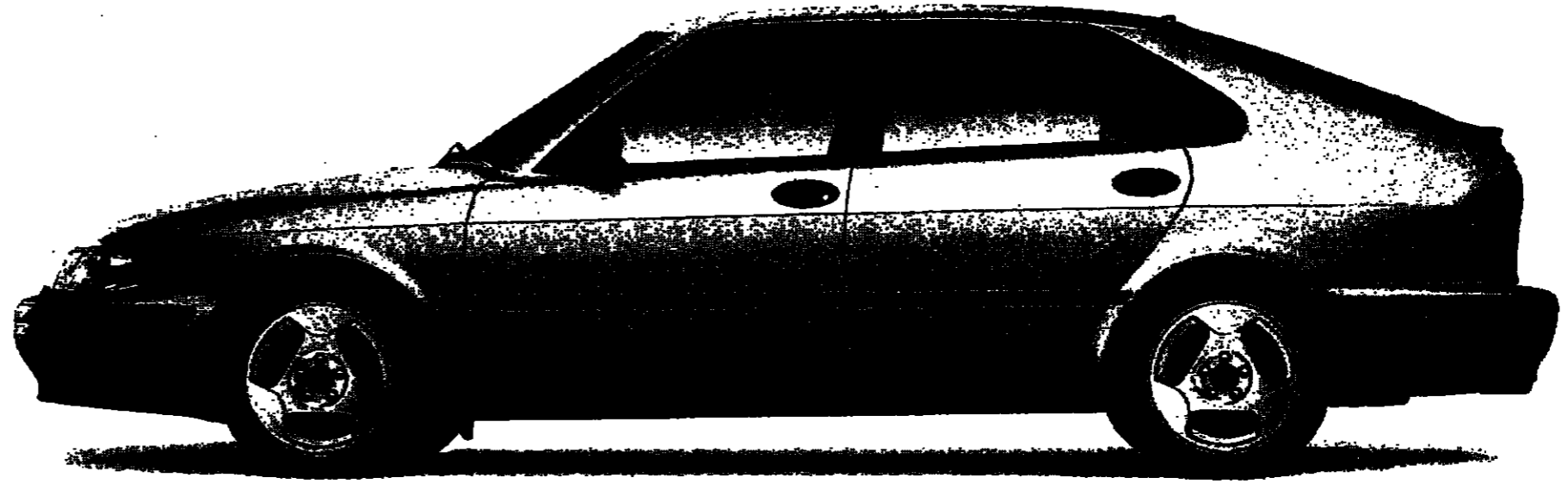
BY LEA PATERSON

implementing more draconian measures - such as capping fees - suggested as potential remedies by the MMC in its interim findings last summer.

Instead, Mr Byers will implement MMC proposals aimed at improving advice given by the City to quoted companies and at making companies more accountable to their shareholders.

To the relief of City institutions, Mr Byers did not announce plans to tamper with pre-emption rights - the rights of existing shareholders to have first refusal on any new issues.

The MMC also found evidence of a complex monopoly in lead underwriting, but concluded that it did not operate against the public interest.



Saab vs. Preconceptions

FOR PRIVATE USERS. SAAB OPTION PLAN.	
Based on:- Saab 9-3 2.0i 5 door, 12,000 miles per annum.*	
Cash price	£17,145
Deposit	£5,000
Advance	£12,145
Monthly Rental	35 x £199
Final Rental/GMFV	£6808.28
Total Amount Payable = £18,873.28*	

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Euro will help slay our inflation dragon

WANNA GET the inflation rate down? Easy. Change the way you measure it.

One of the side effects of British preparation for the euro will be for us to adopt the European measure of inflation. It won't happen for a year or so, but eventually we will shift. We will shift because politically it will seem rather odd not to shift if indeed the Government is to be spending billions of taxpayers' money preparing for the possibility of membership.

It is one of the few aspects of preparation that is zero cost - or rather has negative cost because changing the way the inflation rate is calculated cuts the cost of the considerable array of index-linked payments that the Government has to make.

The immediate effect of switching to the European method shows up in the graph: we would halve our inflation rate. At the top is the Retail Price Index (RPI), excluding mortgage rates, which as you can see has been close to the target rate of 2.5 per cent since last summer. Below it is the UK



HAMISH MCRAE

The UK might avoid its predicted recession and emerge from the next couple of years in an enviable economic position

inflation rate calculated on the European system of harmonised consumer prices, which is about one percentage point lower, and which has been falling steadily for the past three years. And at the bottom is the euro-zone rate, now down to 0.6 per cent. (The European rate is lower largely because it is a geometric mean rather than an arithmetic one; it also does not include housing costs, which politically might be a bit of a problem here.)

There would be one direct consequence of this: when we adopt the European measure we will have to cut the target for inflation. That is already look-

ing oddly high when compared with the European Central Bank's target of 0 to 2 per cent, or, more accurately, less than 2 per cent, for there is no formal bottom of the range at zero. Presumably we will get the Bank monetary committee to adopt the same target as the ECB.

There would be a second consequence. Even though our inflation rate, on the European measure, is lower than it is on the UK measure, it is still double the level of the euro-zone. So it will have to come down further.

At what rate? To be consistent with the ECB the Bank's

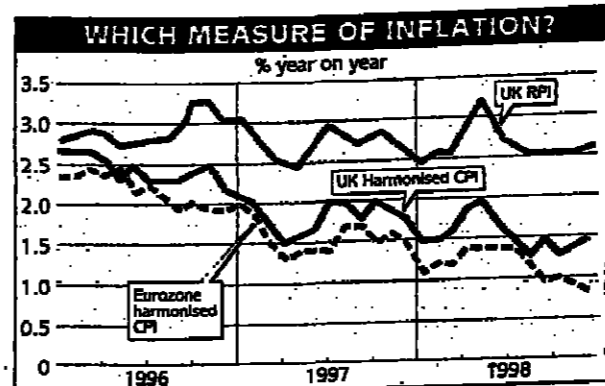
RPI target would have to be 1.5 per cent, at least in the view of JP Morgan, which recently drew attention to the differences between the UK and the European measures. As and when we shift to the European measure, the consistent target would be 1 per cent.

What will happen, therefore, is that the Bank of England monetary committee will have to shadow the inflation objectives of the ECB in terms both of the formal targets at which it will be asked to aim, and the outcome it will be expected to reach. It will have freedom to determine monetary policy, but its objective will switch from a UK-set target to a European one. Whether or not we rejoin EMU, a formal necessity for membership of the euro-zone, we will therefore adopt European monetary objectives.

There is nothing wrong with that. Whatever view you take on the wisdom of joining the euro, or indeed the wisdom of the whole euro project, it makes practical sense to keep our inflation outlook reasonably close to that of the rest of the region.

This will have important consequences. We will, until and unless we join the euro-zone, retain our freedom to adjust short-term interest rates to maintain or trim demand, but this will be within a wider objective. The practical result should be that long-term UK interest rates should be more or less identical to those of the euro-zone. Indeed, as Britain has a stronger fiscal position, and a less unfavourable demographic one, than any other large European country, it is perfectly possible that UK long rates will level out below German and French ones - they are already below US rates. Britain is becoming a cheap money country. You could even argue that we are obtaining the economic benefits of the euro zone without the political and economic costs that membership would impose.

This has immediate practical consequences. Conventional wisdom still maintains that the UK will probably have a recession, albeit a mild one, in the first half of this year before growth recovers in the



autumn. Core continental Europe, by contrast, is expected to have adequate growth through the year.

The very latest figures from Germany, showing that the economy shrank in the final quarter of last year, have sent a shiver through the markets because there is no practical policy response that Germany can make to this. It cannot do anything about interest rates, because those are controlled by the ECB. And it cannot take any fiscal measures because getting anything through parliament would take too long.

existing, very cheap money, the freedom to jack up domestic demand in the face of continuing continental stagnation. The principal danger would be that the current account would deteriorate to an unsustainable level, and the trade gap has widened during the past few months. But since the current account has tended to produce favourable surprises for several years, largely because of strong invisible earnings, the risks there seem acceptable.

The hardest thing to think through is how we will as a society react to near-zero inflation. How will we feel when the annual pay rise becomes minimal? How will we react to even lower returns on savings in bank and building society accounts? How will we react if taxes go up? We may read economic numbers that say we are getting richer, but maybe if our money wages are stagnant we will not feel richer.

Indeed, maybe we quite like a bit of inflation and will resent it if, on the European measure at least, that dragon is finally slain.

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Standard Chartered profit slump

PROFITS AT Standard Chartered slumped 22 per cent to £700m as the crisis which swept its key Asian markets resulted in a near doubling of bad debt provisions to £436m last year.

The bank has taken a £50m provision specifically to cover problems with the Chinese ITICs - the foreign investment companies - several of which have collapsed over the past few months.

Rana Talwar, who took over as chief executive officer from Malcolm Williamson last year, said that the outlook for the year ahead was equally tough although he believed there was scope for significant improvement in profits in 2000.

Despite continued weakness in Asia, the bank, he said, is gearing up to take advantage of the openings created as foreign banks pull out of the region and local banks continue to struggle. "My preference is to grow the business organically, but there will be opportunities to accelerate this growth through selective acquisition," he said.

The bank, Mr Talwar added, was keen to buy the trade finance operations of UBS, and it is in talks with Bank America about buying its business in Taiwan.

The UBS business, which is expected to fetch around \$300m,

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

has a \$5.5bn loan book, most of it outside Asia.

Unlike rival HSBC, which owns Midland Bank, Mr Talwar said that he saw no advantage for Standard Chartered in a substantial merger or takeover deal with another bank in the developed world. Standard Chartered rebuffed a merger approach from Barclays Bank last year. "We are an emerging markets bank," he said. "We operate in some of the most exciting markets in the world."

Mr Talwar said that the efforts to build up the business in Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore meant he expected costs to rise 10 per cent this year.

Standard Chartered fell sharply on the bad debt news yesterday, but the shares rebounded strongly to trade up 22p at 832.5p as the market put the bad news behind it and chose to focus on Mr Talwar's upbeat projections for the bank.

Standard Chartered has embarked on two new projects under Mr Talwar's stewardship designed to ensure the group is "fit for growth" - an efficiency programme, and an upgrade of its management information systems.

IN BRIEF

Wembley shareholders set to decide on future of stadium

SHAREHOLDERS IN Wembley, the public company that owns the home of UK football, must decide at an egm on 11 March whether to support the three executive directors who want to sell the ageing stadium for £106m to the Football Association. The FA would redevelop the stadium using National Lottery funds. Three non-executive directors led by the promoter Jarvis Astaire are advising shareholders to reject the deal and consider a £229m bid worth 412p in cash and shares from the leisure group ENIC.

Wickes warns of DIY slowdown

WICKES, the do-it-yourself retailer rescued in 1996 after a series of accounting irregularities, yesterday warned of a sharp slowdown in the DIY market in 1999. The chief executive, Bill Grimsey, said that the economic downturn was set to slash sales growth in the DIY sector to around 2.5 per cent from around 5 per cent last year. His comments came as Wickes returned to the black with a £24.9m pre-tax profit in 1998, compared with a £6.5m loss in 1997.

ONS to continue collecting data

THE OFFICE for National Statistics will not be outsourcing more of its data collection, Patricia Hewitt announced yesterday. The Treasury Minister accepted the recommendation of a steering group that this cost-saving measure, proposed by accountancy firm KPMG, should not be adopted, although other proposals will save up to £20m a year. Ms Hewitt also announced a new board structure for the ONS.

Select eyes rivals for acquisition

SELECT APPOINTMENTS, the staffing group, is eyeing up small listed staffing groups in the UK and the US whose share prices have been hit by uncertainty about demand for their services. "We are interested in a number of companies that went public a few years ago when the market was in love with staffing companies," said Tony Martin, Select's chairman. He was speaking as the company reported a 63 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £53.1m for the year to December 1998.

Housing market remains buoyant

THE HOUSING market got off to a brisk start in 1999 and there is a severe shortage of properties, especially in South-east England. The average property still fetches 95 per cent of the asking price and takes 11 weeks to sell, according to the latest report by Black Horse Agencies, now part of Bradford & Bingley.

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SPORT

Motor racing: British American Racing's new machine is stirring up politics of envy in the world of Formula One

Pollock primed to rock the boat



RICHARD WILLIAMS

IN FORMULA ONE, waiting around is a way of life. Most of the time the reason is some high-technical hitch, the sort of nuts-and-bolts problem that afflicts even the best-prepared outfit.

But, at Silverstone this week, the British American Racing team's unveiling of the latest entrant into the grand prix circus was delayed for several hours not by some decent engineering reason, but by the fact a few sponsorship stickers had failed to arrive in time for the photo-shoot scheduled to take place before the car took to the circuit. And until those stickers arrived, the garage door stayed closed, with the car shrouded in a tailored blanket.

The cynics loved it. "Says it all, doesn't it," a Formula One veteran said. "Look over there." He pointed down the pit lane, at a distant group of men in pale blue bending intently over a stationary racing car. "There's the Benetton boys, getting on with it, getting the laps under their belt. But that other lot are in the garage, worrying about having their pictures taken. To me, that says everything."

British American Racing's car, the BAR-Supertec 01, has yet to turn a wheel in anger. It makes its race debut a week on Sunday, in the Australian Grand Prix. But already in their short existence the team have managed to attract a degree of resentment remarkable even by the standards of Formula One, where the competition sometimes seems to be fuelled by a particularly volatile blend of spite and jealousy.

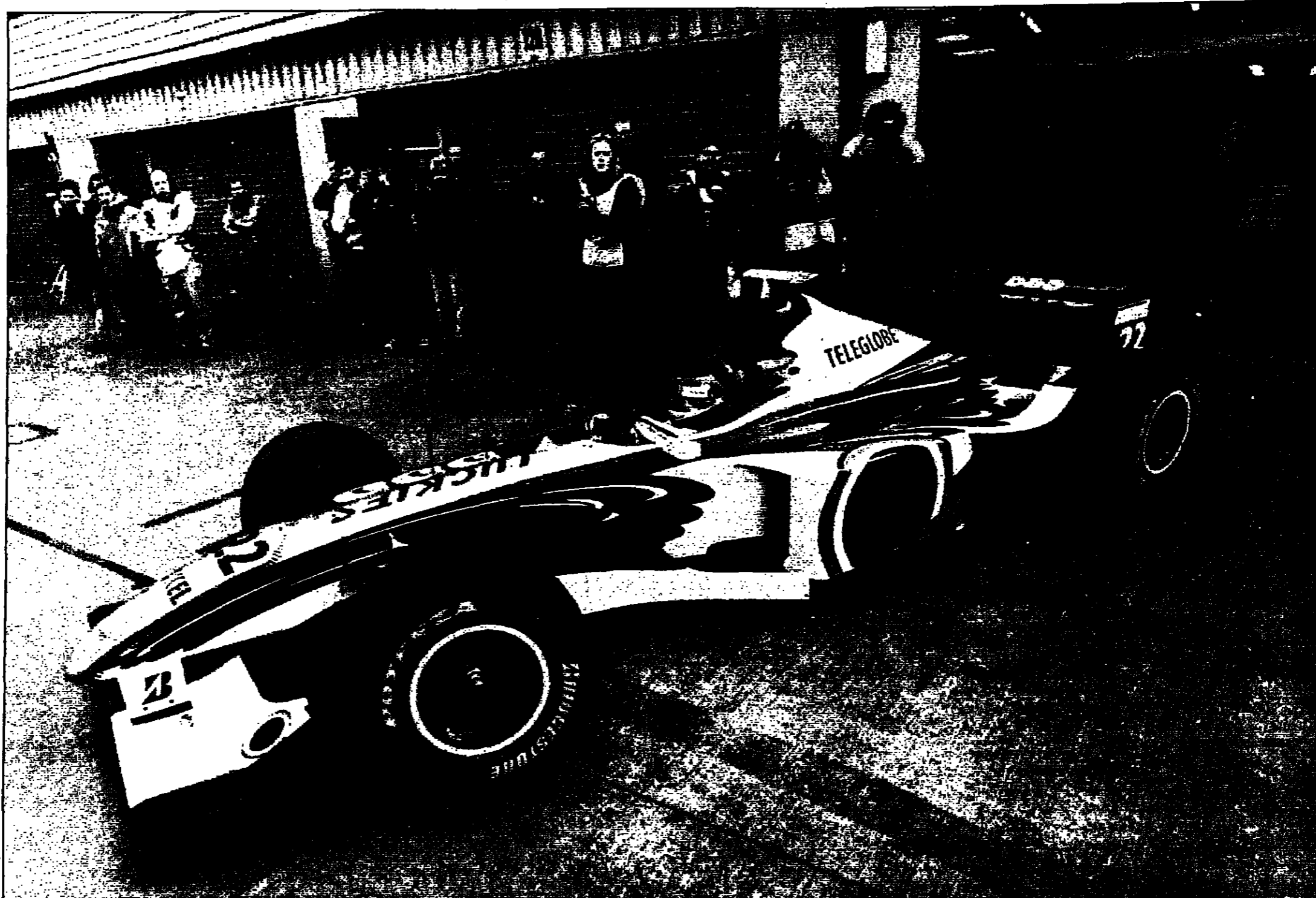
"There's a lot of people in the pit lane," a member of another team said, glancing over at the closed door. "who'd be happy to see that lot fall flat on their faces. They're working to a different agenda. It's all about selling fags, isn't it?"

That may seem unfair. To an extent, almost everyone in Formula One is there to sell fags. In the sense that all the top teams rely on the subsidy of tobacco companies, British American Racing are no different from McLaren, Ferrari, Williams, Jordan or Benetton. It's just the way they've gone about it that puts other people's backs up.

Their managing director, Craig Pollock, has never been one to bother about popularity contests. A 43-year-old Scot with piercing blue eyes and a deceptively relaxed manner, he came into the sport as the manager of Jacques Villeneuve, whom he had taught to ski at school in Switzerland before shepherding him through his ascent to the world championship.

Pollock brought a hard and unsentimental business head to bear on the matter of putting together a team that could succeed in a ferociously competitive sport.

Having negotiated a £250m five-year deal with British American Tobacco, negotiated a deal with the designer and constructor Adrian Reynard, and secured Villeneuve's signature as the No 1 driver, he bought the necessary entry ticket into the closed shop of Formula One teams by paying Ken Tyrrell a sum of around £15m for his outfit, which had been languishing among the also-rans for several years, and relocating the new enterprise to a purpose-built facility in Brackley,



The controversial BAR-Supertec 01, which has been dismissed by one team in Formula One as being simply 'all about selling fags', takes to the track at Silverstone this week David Ashdown

down the road from Silverstone.

As a result of the deal, last season was supposed to be Tyrrell's swan-song, a lap of honour for a man whose enthusiasm and sportsmanship had graced the game since the late 1960s. But Pollock's insistence on utilising the services of Ricardo Rosset, a hopelessly uncompetitive Brazilian driver who bought his seat with a large amount of personal sponsorship money, was enough to alienate the old patron, whose ability to spot embryonic driving talent had always been his greatest asset. Tyrrell quit midway through the season, which upset a lot of people who thought that this was not the way that he should have been made to go.

Opinions stiffened in mid-summer when Adrian Reynard, a gifted designer whose cars enjoy the distinction of having won their first race in every formula they have entered, said that he saw no reason why they shouldn't emulate the feat in the highest category of all. That was when the hard men started to put the boot in.

"Formula One is a bit more difficult than that," Patrick Head, the forthright technical director of the Williams team, said. "A lot of the people at BAR have come from other teams, but if they're able to design a new car and run at the front straight away, it would surprise me."

Ron Dennis, whose McLaren won last year's world championship, was similarly dismissive. "They'll find it somewhat more difficult than they anticipated," he said. "It isn't

that easy." Michael Schumacher, the double world champion, also weighed in. "It takes a long time to get a team running right," he observed. "It took us [Ferrari] a long time, and it will take them just as long. It would be more than a surprise if they got around our cars."

For a brand-new team, winning your very first grand prix would bring amazing publicity. And it's not impossible. When Mercedes-Benz returned to Formula One in 1954 after a 15-year absence, Fangio drove their spectacular streamlined car to victory at Rheims first time out. And in 1977 the Wolf-Ford of Jody Scheckter took a maiden victory in the Argentinian Grand Prix, the season's opening race and the team's debut.

"It was all a bit different then," said Harvey Postlethwaite, who designed Scheckter's Wolf and is directing Honda's Formula One project. "We had a very small team, but it didn't matter. We had a very good driver. That was probably the single biggest ingredient. He was a star. The car wasn't bad, and the engine was a Ford, the same as everybody else's, except Ferrari."

Scheckter had an unspectacular qualifying session in Buenos Aires, and started the race from the sixth row of the grid. But by the end of the first lap he was up to fifth place, and a few retirements gave him the lead by three-quarter distance. The celebrations were long and loud.

"But the gap between the newly arrived and the long established is probably far greater now than it was then," Postlethwaite continued. "In those days, if you had some bright

engineers and a reasonable budget, there was enough scope within the regulations to use your imagination in building a car. You could come along and get well up the grid. Nowadays it's much more difficult because everyone's got the resources and everyone's doing an enormous amount of development work. I won't say it can't be done, but it's a lot, lot more difficult."

Pollock seems to have made his team's task even harder by his insistence on using the cars to promote not the customary one but two of his sponsors' brands of cigarette. When the cars were first shown to the media, at the beginning of January, they were painted in different flag-packet livery. Villeneuve's was in the red and white of Lucky Strike while that of his team mate, the 22-

year-old Brazilian Ricardo Zonta, was in the blue and yellow of State Express 555. Pollock knew that this contravened the FIA regulations stating that teams must paint their cars in similar livery, but he announced his intention to challenge the principle, and to take it to the European Commission if necessary.

This affront to the governing body brought a series of sharp responses from its president, Max Mosley, who had been suspicious of Pollock and Villeneuve since the latter's uncompromisingly critical remarks about changes to the technical regulations a year ago. Mosley accused BAR of "sticking two fingers up at the FIA and the whole Formula One establishment".

The FIA's arbitration procedure found against Pollock, and ordered him to pay legal costs of about half a million pounds. Further, he was summoned to explain his conduct to the World Council, the FIA's disciplinary body, on 12 March, a week after the opening race at Melbourne.

Their car's initial tests were conducted against this background of bickering. Unsurprisingly, it suffered a series of teething troubles, which cheered up the cynics. But in general its performance was creditable, suggesting that Villeneuve would at least be able to put up a respectable showing in the season's early races.

As a result of the FIA's summons, this week's launch of the new livery - in which the cars are painted with one design on the right-hand side and the other on the left - was accompanied by a sudden blanket re-

fusal to talk to the media. Although the team was supposed to have taken a vow of *omertà*, one team member was willing to speak about his relief at the decision to unify the paintwork, meaning that the team will be able to travel to the races with one spare car rather than two, thus simplifying the logistics.

The biggest problem the team faces, he said, is sorting out its internal organisation. "Practically everybody here has worked for one of the big teams. They're used to those teams' well-established structures and relationships, where everybody knows what his function is without even having to think about it. We're still at the stage of saying: 'Hey, I thought you were supposed to be doing that.' It'll come, but it'll take time."

Villeneuve, he thought, was benefitting from a more positive atmosphere than the Canadian had experienced in the demanding environment of the Williams team, where drivers thought to be underperforming are often harshly criticised by the management.

But still, although they won't talk about it, the possible consequences of next month's rendezvous with the World Council threaten to overshadow their debut. "Whatever happens to them at the FIA," one observer said, "whatever is said to them and whatever punishment is handed out, they should do nothing. They should just say: 'Yes, sir. No, sir. Very good, sir. They'll just have to put up with it.'"

For those who aspire to win, the first lesson may be in how to lose.



Jacques Villeneuve: Critical of changes to regulations



Craig Pollock: Not bothered about popularity contests



Max Mosley: Accused team of 'sticking two fingers up'

Manager's office where reporters feared to tread

NO AMOUNT of Football Association fog, of which there is an endless supply, can obscure the fact that media skills are up there with tactical acumen and motivational powers in the quest for a permanent coach of the England football team.

Evidence from conversations between the FA's chief executive, David Davies, and a number of football writers, it is a jolting reminder of how much things have changed even since the time of such notable managers as Alf Ramsey, Jock Stein, Matt Busby, Bill Shankly, Stan Cullis and Bill Nicholson.

Some were more astute than others in dealing with the press and the then infant medium of television but all were quick to jump on betrayals



KEN JONES

of confidence, inaccuracy and scurrilous reporting.

Maybe things are healthier than they were, maybe not, but it must be difficult for the upcoming generation in this trade to believe that recalcitrant sportswriters were

summoned for admonishment to Cullis's office at Molineux.

To give you some idea of the fearful respect in which Cullis was held, a colleague on the *Daily Mirror* who had driven me from the railway station to seek an interview with the autocratic manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers refused to get out of his car. "Things are going bad for Stan [Cullis was fired 48 hours later] and he is bound to be in a terrible mood," he said. "I just can't face him."

No sportswriter of that time took lightly the notion of offending Busby, who was a much harder man than his reputation suggests. Recalling his days as the *Mirror*'s chief northern sports correspondent, my friend Frank McGhee recalls: "Matt was

very generous to young football reporters but anyone who stepped out of line quickly learned that there was no future in getting on the wrong side of him."

Busby was a master of the vocal body swerve, using it to avoid answering questions that might embarrass him and the club.

"Tell me, Sir Matt, is there anything to the rumour that you are about to buy someone?" a reporter might ask.

"Well, son," Busby would reply, with much pausing between syllables, employing the old technique because the rumour was probably true. "This can be a difficult business and you have to stay in touch with what's going on. And how is the golf? Are you hitting it straight?"

That's the secret. Keeping it on the fairway.

By then Busby would be on the move, leaving a bewildered reporter in his wake.

One of the mistakes that led to Graham Taylor's downfall as England manager was to engage in debates with reporters before matches about selection and strategy. "Madness," I remember saying to Steve Coppell when this happened on the eve of a critical encounter against the Netherlands in Rotterdam that failed to qualify England for the 1994 World Cup finals.

It took me back to England's last match, against Poland in Katowice, before the 1986 finals. After announcing the surprise inclusion of Martin Peters, who had made

only one previous representative appearance, Alf Ramsey was asked if he could explain the role set out for the West Ham midfielder. "No," he replied, already rising to leave the room.

More recently, I can remember Franz Beckenbauer, as manager of Germany, leaving intrusive questions unanswered, greeting them with a blank stare. One of Beckenbauer's predecessors, Helmut Schön, once spoke bleakly about the pressure brought to bear by newspaper articles. "It is more than enough at my time [Schön was in his 60th year] to prepare the team," he said. "I understand the needs of the press but it is becoming more and more difficult to cope with their demands."

No England manager has handled the press and television better than Terry Venables, who realised that success does not guarantee protection from factually subjective criticism. "Whether because of alliances or spite, no matter what is achieved there will always be somebody up against you," he said.

One thing for sure is that managers from the past would not take kindly to today's interminable press conferences. Pointing to Tottenham Hotspur's dressing-room after a European Cup Winners' Cup defeat in Bratislava their manager, Bill Nicholson, growled: "You're always telling them how good they are, now go and tell them how bad they were." Somehow, I think that way was better.

Becker's exit concerns organisers

HAVING billed Boris Becker above the home heroes, Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, on the gates of Battersea Park, the organisers of the £510,000 Guardian Direct Cup will "think twice" before agreeing to give the semi-retired former Wimbledon champion a wild card next year.

Becker withdrew from the first round of the singles event yesterday because of a viral infection after losing in the doubles on Monday night. It was to have been the German's first appearance in a singles match in Britain since losing to Pete Sampras in the 1997 Wimbledon quarter-finals.

His countryman, Rainer Schüttler, was only yards away from departure at Heathrow airport when the promoters managed to recall him as a lucky loser from the qualifying to take Becker's place last night against Karol Kucera, the No 5 seed. Otherwise they would not have had a singles contest to follow Tim Henman's match against Jan Krosak on the Centre Court.

It was not only Becker's exit here that perturbed the organisers, but his reputation for withdrawing from tournaments. The 31-year-old Becker, ranked No 77 in the world, lost his only match so far this year, against Sweden's Jonas Björkman in Dubai. He then pulled out of last week's Rotterdam tournament after hurting his back while practising in Dubai.

Last year Becker defeated Henman in the first round in Dubai and then withdrew because of a pulled stomach muscle. He was unable to fulfil an engagement in Scottsdale, Arizona, because of a back injury, and withdrew from the Lipton, in Florida, because of flu.

As the season moved on, Becker openly campaigned as the figurehead for a group proposing to run an alternative professional circuit to the ATP

TENNIS
BY JOHN ROBERTS
in Battersea

Tour, emphasising the virtues of player commitment, among other things.

In October, however, Becker was praised for giving his wild card for the Vienna tournament to Sampras, which helped the American's drive to a record sixth consecutive year as the world No 1.

That gesture was of little consolation to the Battersea organisers, who are striving to establish their indoor event, which is in its second year. Asked if a wild card would be waiting for Becker next year, the tournament director, Patricia Apey, said: "Maybe yes, maybe no. This will make us think twice. It's the first time it has happened here, and it's his health." The tournament doctor, Dr George Taggart, examined Becker and diagnosed gastroenteritis.

"It's not as if Becker said anything malicious against the

tournament," Apey added, "and he did play doubles last night." Apey revealed, however, that when Becker asked for a wild card for the doubles to accompany the one granted for the singles, they withheld it until he turned up.

It was suggested to Apey that cynics might take the view that promoters were prepared to give Becker wild cards for tournaments, use the publicity, and not care whether he played or not. "That couldn't be further from the truth," Apey said. "Even when Boris was in the top five in the world he was one of the players who pulled out of more tournaments than most. We are as disappointed as everybody else. He's a big part of the recent history of tennis. That's why people give him wild cards."

Becker was not the only player with stomach problems yesterday. A party faced Jan-Michael Gambill, who had been ill since arriving from a tournament in Memphis at the weekend, was dispatched in his opening match by Italy's Davide Sanguinetti, 6-4, 6-4.

Gambill defeated Sanguinetti in straight sets when drafted into the United States Davis Cup team for last year's semi-final against Italy in Milwaukee, and the 21-year-old from Spokane is expected to be in the team to play Britain in Birmingham at Easter.

"All I know is that Todd Martin is on the team for sure," Gambill, the American No 5, said. "I have spoken to Tom Gullikson, the captain and it is a possibility I'll be on the team."

Gambill, ranked No 44, has won both of his matches against Henman, the British No 1. "They've both been really close," Gambill said, "the last one was 7-6 in the third set. We both serve big, and on those occasions I was just able to make returns a bit better than he did."

With his leading countrymen, Sampras and Agassi, again de-



Goran Ivanisevic sports the pirate look but was cast adrift in his defeat by Hicham Arazzi yesterday

Allsport

clining to play in the Davis Cup, Gambill was asked if he thought it would help if world ranking points were awarded for the event.

"I think that's ridiculous," he said. "I don't think that's what the Davis Cup is about. It never has

been, and we've got the centennial coming up. It just isn't the way it should be. Players play because they love the game and because they want to play for their country. That's like giving money out for the Olympics instead of gold medals. It's silly. If you

don't want to play, you don't want to play."

Goran Ivanisevic, who was the Wimbledon runner-up for the third time last July, failed to advance beyond the second round for the second year at Battersea. The No 7 seed was

defeated by the gifted Moroccan Hicham Arazzi, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Martina Hingis, the world No 1, wasted no time reaching the quarter-finals of the Paris Indoor Open yesterday, racing to a 6-1, 6-1 victory over the Yugoslav Sandra Nacuk in just 41 minutes.

Burns is ready to become All Star

BASKETBALL

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

DERBY STORM'S Joel Burns could be elevated to All-Star status today if, as expected, the season-long ban on team-mate Rico Alderson is confirmed by the English Basketball Association's appeals committee.

Alderson was selected for the North to play the South in Saturday's All-Star game at Newcastle Arena. But on Monday he and Ybrick Williams were due to begin a ban for the rest of the season for their part in the abandoned game at Chester Jets on 31 January.

The ban was stalled by Derby's appeal, although Williams was barred by the Association from playing in last night's England game against Belarus in the European Championships. Assuming Alderson's ban is not removed, The North's coach, Nick Nurse, will name a replacement for his team and would like to select an alternative from Derby: Newcastle's Corey Jackson is another possible replacement.

Both Nurse and the South's coach, Billy Mims, were forced to change their line-ups this week. John White, of Manchester Giants, and Tim Moore, from Mims' club the Greater London Leopards, have temporarily returned to America for family reasons. White has been replaced in the North line-up by Travis Conlan, while Mims has called up his own club captain, Robert Youngblood.

In the United States, the former Chicago Bull Dennis Rodman has become a Los Angeles Laker. Rodman, 37, is expected to make his debut at The Forum against LA Clippers. His one-year contract, with a player option for next season, will earn Rodman \$468,000 (£290,000), or \$12,000 per game.

ALL-STAR GAME (Manchester, Saturday): The North (Derby (Manchester), Conlan (Sheffield), Alderson (Derby), Myers (Sheffield), Slagter (Leicester), Browning (Chester), Black (Newcastle), Boone (Leicester), Johnson (Sheffield), Holly (Manchester), Berry (Edinburgh), Fitz (Newcastle), The South (Bedford (Thames Valley), Youngblood (Greater London Leopards), Galanos (Worthing), Lloyd (Birmingham), Williams (Millon Keynes), Slemmon (Thames Valley), Kirk (Birmingham), Arena, Lewis, Leach (all London Towers), Morton (London Towers), Barker (Greater London Leopards).

Hamed may fight Bungu this year

BOXING

NAASEM HAMED's summer agenda could be filled by the South Africa fighter, Vuyani Bungu.

Rhian Hamed, the Sheffield boxer's brother and business manager, is in talks with Bungu's promoter, Rodney Burman, over a World Boxing Organisation featherweight title defence in South Africa or America, possibly in July.

Both Hamed and Bungu are contractually tied to the American cable network Home Box Office, so television politics would not hinder negotiations. Hamed must first overcome the challenge of Scarborough's Paul Ingle in Manchester on 10 April, a bill which could include Bungu - described by Burman as South Africa's greatest fighter - involved on the undercard.

Bungu's statistics back Burman's assessment. He has just successfully defended his IBF super-bantamweight title for the 13th time but is soon to move up to the nine-stone division. The 31-year-old said: "I've been waiting for the opportunity to fight Naaseem for the last two years. It would be the fight of my life."

Burman yesterday unveiled his new Golden Fist organisation, which will be the United Kingdom-based arm of the South African's Golden Glove Company. Golden Fist will be run in this country by Dave Lewis, who for 10 years worked for the promoter Frank Warren. Its first promotion will be on 1 April at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre, when the Midlander Robert Norton will challenge South Africa's Jacob Mofokeng for the World Boxing Union cruiserweight crown. The show will also include Bobby Vanzie's British lightweight title defence against Anthony Campbell, and a fight for the women's champion Jane Couch.

Third official to rule on borderline calls

THE GREEN LIGHT has been given to a new cricket-style system that will allow an off-field official to rule on controversial decisions in televised rugby league cup ties, starting with this weekend's matches.

The official will have access to the BBC's range of camera angles for slow motion replays in order to decide on whether a try has been scored. A green light will mean yes; a red, no try.

The referees' development manager, Geoff Berry, will be the man in charge of that new technology when it is used for the first time in the Challenge Cup tie between Leeds and St Helens on Saturday.

The Great Britain winger,

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Anthony Sullivan, who will not be involved in that match, following the decision of the St Helens coach, Ellery Hanley, to leave him out after his recent forays into rugby union. Saints' football manager, Eric Hughes, said: "Ellery feels that Anthony has had a lot on his plate recently with playing for Wales."

The Leeds coach, Graham Murray, has made one enforced change for the tie, bringing in Martin Masella for the suspended Barrie McDermott.

The League's chief executive, Neil Tunncliffe, has reassured supporters that the tri-series in which Great Britain are due to play in Australia and New Zealand this autumn will go ahead. Doubts were cast earlier this week by reports in a Sydney newspaper that the chairman of the NZRL, Gerald Ryan, said he had not seen a

business plan for the tournament and would prefer a series against Australia.

"This is part of an international calendar that was drawn up in August and ratified in December," Tunncliffe said. "It's hard for us to see how anyone who was party to those decisions can be in any doubt about the international calendar at this stage."

Tunncliffe is to meet the other members of the International Federation, including Ryan, in Sydney on 9 and 10 March, but said: "This is a decision of the International Federation that went through the due process and I don't anticipate any volte face."

Michael Smith has been relieved by Hull, who cancelled his contract after he was seen in a night club before their Challenge Cup defeat at Castleford. The New Zealand has been fined £5,000 - £2,500 of it suspended - and put on three months' "probation" by the club.

Fu in the frame at last

HE IS yet to win a professional title and Marco Fu is only a modest £3rd in the world rankings, but the 20-year-old from Hong Kong is tipped to become the snooker phenomenon of the next millennium.

That is why Fu gets a chance to rub shoulders with the game's greatest names and non-snooker celebrities at the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge, which starts in Derby today.

He has been awarded the first wild card invitation of his brief career to take part in a tournament where the success of the players benefits a host of charities, from Breast Cancer Care to Child Poverty Action Group. Sunday's champion collects £30,000 for himself, with £100,000 going to charity.

It is just possible Fu could land the jackpot for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. While the rest of the weary 12-

SNOOKER

man field come to the Assembly Rooms after consecutive events in London and Aberdeen, Fu has been preparing for his big day back home in the Far East.

Fu has not competed since the Welsh Open in Cardiff last month and does not need to worry about forthcoming ranking events in Thailand and China, because he did not qualify. So, his attention is focused on doing well in the Charity Challenge and succeeding the defending champion, John Higgins.

However, Fu, the runner-up to Stephen Lee at the Grand Prix in Preston last October, could not have landed a tougher start. He meets the Welsh and Irish Open champion, Mark Williams, in his first match today, with the winner to meet the Masters runner-up

and Scottish Open semi-finalist, Ken Doherty, for a place in the last four.

Fu's ability was quickly recognised by his manager Ian Doyle, who has signed him to his Cue Masters stable.

"Marco has got terrific ability and the ideal temperament for this game, and it wouldn't surprise me if he won the title this week," Doyle said.

John Higgins, smarting from his black-ball semi-final defeat by Stephen Hendry in Aberdeen last Saturday, opens his campaign against Peter Ebdon or Steve Davis, who gets the tournament under-way this morning. Hendry, fresh from his Scottish Open title win, takes on Jimmy White or John Parrott.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA CHARITY CHALLENGE (Derby) Today's order of play (Best of nine frames): 10am: 5 Davis (Eng) v P Ebdon (Wls), 1pm: M Williams (Wls) v M Fu (Hk), 3pm: J Parrott (Eng) v J White (Eng), 7pm: A McManus (Sco) v D Taylor (N Ir).

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"That result could not have been a total fluke, but I still keep hoping that the Cheltenham race was really true. And just because Teeton Mill has

The horse himself, as much as the improvement, was incredible. "He was very impressive wasn't he?" the trainer said. "I know he was only running off [a handicap mark of] 129, but whatever had run off a rating like that with top weight could not have done it better. He

Half of today's six-strong field are entered for the big one, but even if Grey Shot, Midnight Legend and Upgrade ran it in relay Istabraq would probably still get the better of them.

Grey Shot (3.10) was tried over further last time, but, oddly for a horse who won the Jockey Club and Goodwood Cups on the Flat, he seemed to run out of puff. Like Double Thriller he is a course-and-distance winner. Unlike Double Thriller: he will be at a bachelable price.

2.35: DOUBLE THRILLER found the chink in Teeton MILL armour at Cheltenham in April and Paul Nicholls's Gold Cup contender should have little trouble running the finish out of the doubtful stayer Wayward King.

3.4f: MOOR LANE is a chaser of some potential and looks far more interesting than most of his rivals. Seymours Swift and Reaganesque are the chief dangers.

bad Haydock experience out of mind, Henry Daly's French-bred is likely to be too resolute for the quirky No More Hassle.

☐☐☐

3.25: DANGERUS PRECEDENT's Triumph Hurdle odds have been cut to 10-1 in recent days and Charlie Egerton's fierce galloper should underline his Festival chance by outpointing the less-experienced Albrighton, whose jumping fell apart under pressure last time at Musselburgh.

	C	H	L	S	T
Gray Shot	45	ow	45	56	10
Midnight Legend	4-1	9-2	5-1	9-2	9-
Fatality	11-2	11-2	6-1	5-1	11-
Chai'No	13-2	4-1	9-2	6-1	5-
Bernardo	14-1	12-1	14-1	14-1	14-
Upgrade	18-1	18-1	14-1	16-1	2-

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2

C Coral H Win H/L, L Losses, S Starting T Time

Wincanton 3.40					
	C	H	L	S	
Moor Lane	8-4	5-2	11-4	5-2	5
Romancegan	7-2	13-3	3-1	10-3	7
Union Rocks	5-1	11-2	5-1	8-1	11
Mr Playful	15-2	7-1	13-2	7-1	6
Nonpareil	7-1	8-1	8-1	9-1	8
Symposium	9-1	7-1	8-1	8-1	9
Amblebide	12-1	8-1	12-1	10-1	5
Beyond Our R	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	14
Bassett Oaks	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	20
Cardinal	15-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25

Each way, a fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3

[illegible]

2:30 (3m, novice chase)
1. STORMYFAIRWEATHER _____ M A Fitzgerald 4-7 fav
 2. Gracie Daele _____ S Durack 8-1
 3. Mr Perkaupp _____ R Widger 33-1
 Also: 5-2 Take Cover, 66-1 Grand Canyon
 (4th), Remo Doane, 100-1 Luker Boy

3.35: (2m 3/4 110yds, handicap chase)
 1. MANASISA Dobbin 7-2 fav
 2. Carlisle Bandito'sB Powell 11-2
 3. Dragons BayMr A Dempsey 12-1
 4. VerryellY Reed 25-1
 Also: 5-2 Joe Shaw, 10-1 Boyzntown, Out
 By Night, 14-1 B The One, Caracol (8th),
 15-1 Purple Ace, 20-1 Made Of Steel, Rare

4.40: (2m 3l 10yds. handicap chase)
1. HARFDECENT _____ P Niven 2-1 fav
2. Jason's Boy _____ R Johnson 14-1
3. Count Kermusid _____ A McGuire 5-2

Tymenne, 50-1 Ballywooden, Cardinal Colour.
18 ran. 6: 10, 2 1/2, nk, 1 1/4. (J Neville, Newport). Total: win £6.50; places £2.70, £1.60, £2.50, DF: £9.90.
Jackpot: 599840
Placepot: £2260. Grandpot: £13.30
Place 6: £23.03. Place 5: £13.88

3.55: 1. MISCONDUCT (W Marston) 11-4
 1st; 2. **Kerry's Oats** 12-1; 3. **Keen Bld** 20-1;
 4. **Mr Leroy** 25-1. 16 ran. 21 1/4. (Mrs M
 Jones, Lambourn) Totals: £4,200; £140; £330,
 £3,70. £18,70. DF: £30,00. CSF: £33,07. Tri-
 ast: £540,97.

2.112: 1. GULFONDEA (W. Pichler) 2-7 fav,
2. Sam-Belle 10-1; 3. State Wind 5-1 7 ran.
1%, ¼, (M Bell). Total: £130; £130 £380 DP:
£730. CSF: £508. NR: French Spice
2.40: 1. STATE OF CAUTION (D Sweeney)
5-1; 2. Elite Hope 5-2 fav; 3. Trojan Hero
7-2, 10 ran. 1%, 2. (K Burke). Total: £530;
£180, £140, £130. Dual Forecast: £840.
CSF: £1725.

4.50: 1. HIGH NOON (J Tote) 4-1; 2. Prospector's Cove 3-1 f fav; 3. King Priam 10-1 9 ran. 3-1 f fav Diamond Flame 1/4 nk. (N Littmoden) Total: £25.50. £130. £160. £170. DF: £270. CSF: £1671. Th cast: £10890.

Placepot: £18.20. Quadpot: £20.0.

Place 6: £4259. Place 5: £3329.

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

Golf: Zimbabwean never troubled by overrated Filipino as early conditions in World Matchplay favour Leonard

Price's quick start leaves time to spare

FRANKIE MINOZA became the first player to face the harsh reality of the Andersen Consulting World Matchplay Championship. Minoza managed only 15 holes at La Costa before returning to the Philippines following his 4 and 3 defeat by Nick Price. If San Diego is a long way to come for a day trip, a cheque for £13,625 was compensation for Frankie's farewell.

Minoza, ranked 57th in the world, won once on the Japanese tour last year. According to a statistical analysis by an American magazine, the 39-year-old is an example of a player ranked above his station thanks to the current system

BY ANDY FARRELL
in Carlsbad, California

overvaluing performances in Asia, Australia and Japan.

Price, who chipped in for an eagle at the second, was never behind and won three holes in a row from the 10th to ease in front, his birdie at the 12th coming when he almost pitched in again from off the green. The Zimbabwean now plays Jeff Maggert, the American Ryder Cup player, who beat his compatriot Fred Funk by two holes. Price's problem then was what to do with the rest of his day.

"I can't remember finishing at 10.30 in the morning before,"

said Price, who finished fifth, three behind Ernie Els, at the Nissan Open on Sunday. "I am going to have to find a lot of things to do to fill the time but I am glad my good play from last week has carried through. If it had been strokeplay, I'd probably have had a 66 and be well placed in the tournament, but the nature of matchplay is that you start all over again every day."

Another to take advantage of the perfect early morning conditions was Justin Leonard. The former Open champion was two down to Miguel Angel Jimenez after only three holes but then won four holes in a row. At the par-five ninth, Jimenez hit a beautiful three-wood second shot to three feet, which Leonard conceded once he had visited a bunker and missed his eight-foot birdie putt.

But this proved the Spaniard's last inspired moment and Leonard ran out a 4 and 3 winner. "This was a long way to come for one day but Justin was six under par for the 15 holes and it was no disgrace to lose," said Jimenez. "I had a good start with two birdies in the first three holes but overall I played well, just not brilliantly."

Leonard, who bowed with Thomas Bjorn in the Ryder Cup singles at Valderrama in '97 and lost to Craig Parry in the Presidents Cup last December, now plays the star of the International team at Royal Melbourne, Shigeaki Maruyama. The Japanese player shocked



Paul Azinger keeps track of his tee shot on the par-three third hole yesterday during the World Matchplay Championship in Carlsbad AP

American television audiences with his perfect 5-0 record in the Presidents Cup and he continued his mastery of the matchplay art by defeating Steve Stricker 3 and 2.

However, Maruyama's compatriot, Joe Ozaki, the younger brother of Jumbo who passed on the trip, lost to Phil Mickelson 3 and 2. Patrik Sjoeland, of Sweden, did his Ryder Cup prospects no harm, both in terms of the points he will receive and impressing captain Mark James, by beating Jim Furyk 5 and 3.

Professional golfers do not usually start playing competitively until Thursday mornings, but this week half the field has not made it that far. Or, as a local TV breakfast show presenter, who seemed less than au fait with golf let alone the matchplay version, said "about half" the players will be going home each day.

Nor did the citizens of San Diego and southern California seem to grasp the fact that yesterday was the day to see 63 of the world's top 64 golfers -

plus Nick Faldo - in action. By the time the weekend comes around, only four will remain. The gallery was far short of major championship proportions and any talk of the event, deserving of its place in the calendar as it is, eventually reaching major status was dismissed by the world No. 1, Tiger Woods.

"I don't see that happening," said Woods. "Golf is all about tradition and it is very difficult to incorporate a new event into what has been there for quite some time. It would be

neat if it did happen but traditionalists don't ever want to see another major added."

Woods, incidentally, is again without his regular caddie, Mike "Fluff" Cowan, and has Brian Bell, an old friend, on the bag. Their record together is outstanding. "We have never lost a tournament together," Woods said. Bell was caddying for Woods when he won the Southern California Amateur, a US Amateur Qualifying, the 1996 US Amateur, after which he turned professional, and the

Buick Invitational at nearby Torrey Pines two weeks ago.

That victory certainly saw a return to the ultra-aggressive Woods who first turned pro in a blaze of glory and has since become more conservative under the influence of his entourage. "I would like to see Brian come out more often if his work permits," Woods said. ANDERSEN CONSULTING WORLD MATCHPLAY CHAMPIONSHIP at La Costa, Carlsbad, California: Early results (US unless stated): N Price (2m) bt F Minoza (Phil) 4 & 3; J Leonard bt M Jimenez (Spa) 4 & 3; S Stricker lost to S Maruyama (Japan) 3 & 2; P Mickelson bt N Oishi (Japan) 3 & 2; J Maggert bt F Funk 2 holes.

Augusta promises to be a rough passage

BERNHARD LANGER, twice a US Masters champion, spent two days at Augusta National before heading for the Match Play Championship. He expected to see the changes to four of the holes, but saw a lot more than he bargained for. "It was about this thick," Langer said of the rough, holding his fingers about an inch apart.

Whether the rough will be there in six weeks, when the Masters is staged at the Georgia course, remains to be seen. Tournament officials are reported to be debating how high it should be, and how much area it should cover.

If there is rough, its impact

would be difficult to measure until the second week in April. It could play almost one stroke tougher, while some believe it would only give the generous fairways more definition.

Alterations this year include an extra 25 yards on the par-five second hole and the par-four 17th, along with pine trees planted down the 15th fairway and a rebuilt green on 11.

Augusta officials rarely call it "rough," instead referring to the second cut. Either way, should the "second cut" be even an inch deep, it would be the most drastic change since bentgrass greens were introduced in 1961.

Bribery report rebukes ACB Australia on Caribbean cruise

A TWO-MONTH independent inquiry has cleared Australian cricket of any involvement in match-fixing or bribery. But the man in charge of the investigation, Rob O'Regan, a lawyer, criticised the Australian Cricket Board's (ACB) handling of the Shane Warne-Mark Waugh scandal.

O'Regan said the two Australian Test players should have been suspended after they sold information to an Indian bookmaker during Australia's tour of Pakistan in 1994. He also said the ACB should have provided details of the case to the

CRICKET
BY KIERAN DALEY

Pakistan Cricket Board after the pair accused the Pakistan captain Salim Malik of offering them bribes to play badly on the same tour.

"I'm pleased to report never did I hear any suggestion of match-fixing or a player failing to play on his merits," O'Regan said. "[But] I disagree that the Waugh and Warne inquiry was kept private and a more appropriate punishment would have been a suspension for a

period of time. I came to the conclusion that there was a distinct possibility of a connection between the two matters. I don't know how the ACB concluded they were separate."

The pair were fined although this was kept secret by the ACB, a move criticised by its own bribery inquiry.

O'Regan said the board should have made the fines public at the time as well as suspending the pair, who are now on a tour of the West Indies. In handing down his findings, he said Warne and Waugh had failed to set the sort of ex-

ample expected of senior players. "I do not think it is possible to explain their conduct away as the result of merely naivety or stupidity," he added.

The ACB's chief executive, Mal Speed, admitted his organisation had been too lenient. "With hindsight I think we can look back on these penalties and say yes, perhaps they should have been harsher penalties," he said.

A Pakistani judge is conducting an inquiry into allegations of corruption and bribery in cricket in the country. His report is expected soon.

THE WEST INDIES' Board XI avoided an immediate repeat of their first-innings debacle after being set an almost impossible target of 311 to win on the final day of the three-day match opening Australia's tour of the West Indies.

Dismissed for 58 in their first innings in St John's, Antigua, the Board XI survived without loss until lunch at 12. Stuart Williams, the Board's captain, was on seven and his fellow opener, Adrian Griffith, was on eight.

Australia earlier declared their second innings on 209 for

Australia 156 & 209-4 dec West Indies' Board XI 55 & 100-3

4 after both Ricky Ponting and Greg Blewett completed their half-centuries.

Australia had resumed on 176 for 3 after rain delayed the start for half an hour, and Ponting and Blewett scored freely against the fast bowlers Pedro Collins and Dwight Mais.

Ponting, who began the day on 46, was the first to reach his half-century off 110 balls with

three fours while Blewett brought his up in 137 balls with four boundaries.

The declaration came after Blewett (58) lofted a catch to Corey Collymore on the long-on boundary off the left-arm spinner Ryan Hinds. Ponting was unbeaten on 61.

Gloucestershire have signed the Australian one-day international all-rounder Ian Harvey as their overseas player for the 1999 season.

Harvey, who has played 11 limited-overs games for his country, has essentially been recruited because of his medium-

paced bowling, but he is also expected to make a valuable contribution as a middle-order batsman.

Harvey will arrive in Bristol on 1 April and claims he is looking forward to his first taste of the English game.

"I am really excited about the opportunity of playing county cricket in England," he said. "Gloucestershire have a reputation as a rapidly developing side, with a top-level coaching structure."

"They are ambitious to win trophies and I want to be part of a winning side."

India punish sloppy Sri Lanka

SANDAGOPPAN RAMESH struck his maiden Test century and Rahul Dravid also scored a hundred to give India the upper hand against Sri Lanka in their Asian Test championship match.

India were 351 for 3 at the close of the first day with Sachin Tendulkar, who hit an unbeaten 53 in as many balls, and their captain Mohammad Azharuddin, 19 not out, consolidating an impressive start.

Ramesh, who hit 143, shared a record second-wicket stand of 232 with Dravid (107) after opener Vangipurappu Laxman was out for 11 with the total on 20. Ramesh hit 18 fours in his 317-minute innings while Dravid reached the boundary 12 times.

The pair broke India's previous highest second-wicket stand in Tests against Sri Lanka of 173 between Sunil Gavaskar and Dilip Vengsarkar, set in 1983-83.

Sri Lanka had to endure a day of toil after winning the toss and putting India in to bat, with sloppy fielding compounding their problems and accelerating the run rate.

Their solitary success in the morning was the dismissal of Laxman. He edged a rising delivery from the debutant pace bowler Ruchira Perera into the slips where the fielders juggled

BY HARRY CUNNINGHAM
in Colombo

India 351-3 v Sri Lanka

with the ball before Aravinda de Silva finally grasped the catch at first slip. Ramesh fell when he drove Mahela Jayawardene uppishly and was caught by the Sri Lankan captain, Arjuna Ranatunga.

Soon afterwards, Ranatunga held a juggling catch to send back Dravid off the bowling of Chandika Hathurusingha.

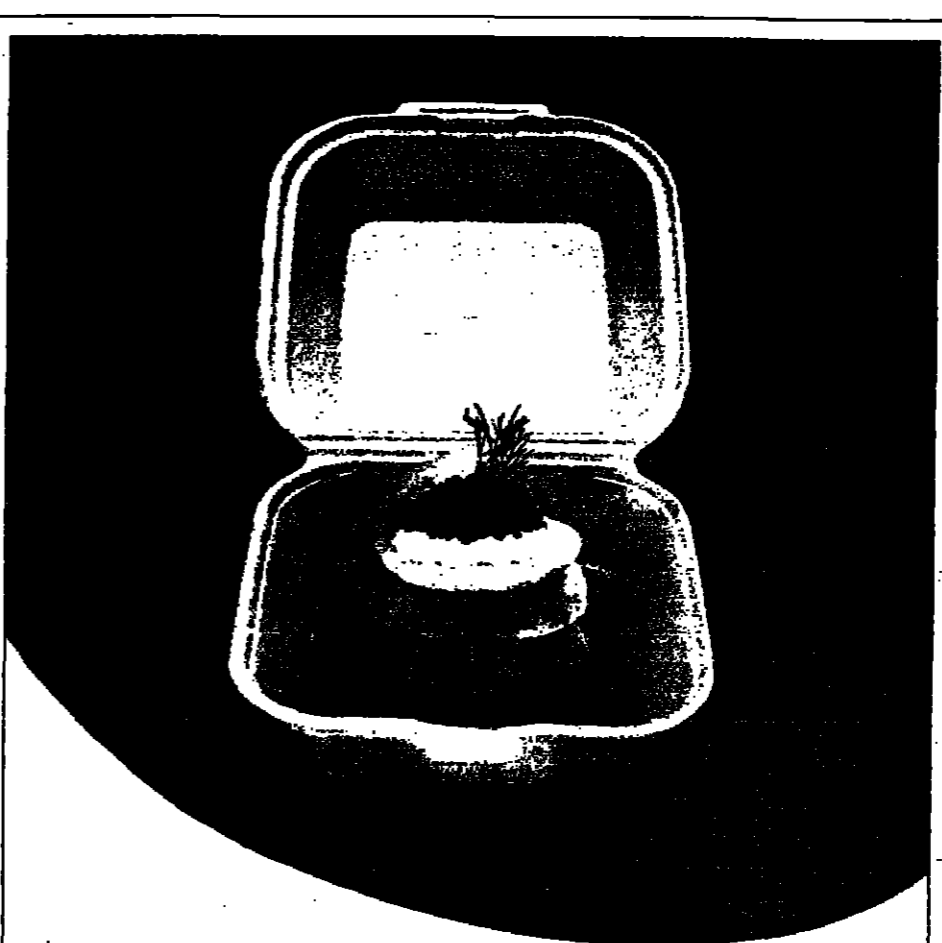
Sri Lanka went in to the match without their injured off-spinner, Muttiah Muralitharan. Pakistan beat India by 46 runs in the opening match of the championship last Saturday. Sri Lanka play Pakistan in Lahore, starting on 4 March, and the final is in Dhaka starting on 12 March.

First day, Sri Lanka won toss
S Ramesh c Ranatunga b Jayawardene... 143
V V Laxman c de Silva b Perera... 11
R Dravid c Hathurusingha b Muralitharan... 107
S R Tendulkar not out... 53
M Azharuddin not out... 19
Bismah (Sh. 40, 12m)... 18
Total (for 3 wickets, 30 overs)... 351
Fall: 1-20, 2-252, 3-288
To bat: S G Ganguly, I B Mongia, A Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Venkatesh Prasad, A Nehra, Bhatting, Vast 22-4-70-1, Perera 19-2-102-1, Uththarath 17-2-68-2, Hathurusingha 15-2-36, Aravinda 11-4-0, Jayawardene 6-1-18-1, Sri Lanka 19-0-0-0, M S Kapildevi, P A S Silva, D P M Jayawardene, A Ranatunga, H P Thabane, R S Kalanidharan, WPUJ Vaas, U C Hathurusingha, R L Perera, K E A Upshantha, Diasper R E Koortzen (SA) and R B Tiffin (Zim).

TOMORROW

"There are teams in the Premiership who, week in week out, are getting 15,000 or 20,000. We could do better than that."

Jeff Wood, manager of Brighton and Hove Albion, looks to the future



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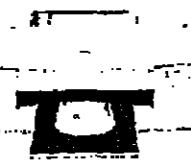
EPSON have pioneered Variable-Sized-Droplet Technology which actually increases print speed. Using different sized dots on the same page and line, the printer can create incredible detail with small dots while covering simple areas quickly with larger ones. It's all

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SPORT



ROCKING THE GRAND PRIX BOAT P26 • BLOW-UP IN BATTERSEA P27

European football: Hiddink's departure clears way for Welshman's second spell in charge at the Bernabeu stadium

Return to Real for Toshack

ONE WEEK after his erstwhile Liverpool co-striker Kevin Keegan took over one of the most important jobs in international football, John Toshack became coach of one of the world's biggest clubs.

The Welshman was confirmed as the new man in charge at Real Madrid last night and will be officially presented at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium tomorrow evening, before taking charge for Saturday's match in Seville against Real Betis, a spokesperson said. Whether his appointment will be any more permanent than Keegan's four-month stay as England's temporary coach is a moot point. He will be the ninth coach employed by Lorenzo Sanz since he became Real's president in November 1995.

Toshack signed his contract in Istanbul yesterday after Real agreed a £400,000 compensation

BY GUY HODGSON

deal with the Welshman's previous employers, Besiktas. "Toshack is leaving us and is going to Real Madrid," a spokesman for the Turkish club said. "He called the head of the club last night [Tuesday] and said he wanted to leave."

Toshack, who coached Real from 1989 to 1991, is to replace the Dutchman Guus Hiddink, who was sacked in the early hours of yesterday morning after a meeting of the Spanish club's executive board. The decision came despite a 1-0 win over Racing Santander in the Spanish Cup and, according to reports, took just over an hour to reach.

"We had no choice," Sanz said. "The directors have taken a decision we don't like but we have decided that it would be better if Guus Hiddink goes."

The fact that this is something neither I nor the directors wanted to do indicates that the situation is not good."

Although Real are the current European champions and play their Champions' League quarter-final first leg against Dynamo Kiev in Madrid next Wednesday, their domestic record is poor by their elevated standards and they lie sixth in the 20-team Spanish League, seven points behind the leaders and their keenest rivals, Barcelona. They share with Salamanca the worst defensive record of 36 goals conceded.

Toshack, 49, who guided Swansea City from the Fourth Division to the First between 1978 and 1981 and was manager of Wales for 47 days and one match in 1984 before resigning, had 18 months left on his Besiktas contract but had been in dispute with directors at the Turkish club all season.

He joined them in June 1997 and last year guided them to the Turkish Cup while finishing sixth in the League. This season has been less successful, however, and at the weekend there was unrest among supporters after a 2-0 defeat by Gaziantep caused them to drop to third place.

Toshack, the winner of 40 Welsh caps between 1969 and 1980, still has a house in Spain, commentates occasionally for Spanish television and has made no secret of his desire to retire to the country where he first made his mark as the coach of Real Sociedad, winning the Spanish Cup in 1987.

He was appointed Real's coach in May 1989 and in his first season guided them to the Spanish title, scoring a record 107 goals and, although he was sacked 11 games into the following season, his reputation



John Toshack takes his last training session with Besiktas yesterday before leaving Istanbul to return as coach of Real Madrid

AFP

THE JOHN TOSHACK STORY

1949: Born 22 March, Cardiff.
1966: Signed professional terms with home-town club Cardiff City. Welsh Cup winner in 1968, 1969 and 1970.

1970: Signed by Liverpool. Won three League championships in 1973, 1976 and 1977, the FA Cup in 1974 and two Uefa Cups in 1973 and 1976. In eight seasons at Liverpool he played over 200 games, scoring 95 goals. Also won 40 caps and scored 13 goals for Wales.

1979: Became player-manager at Swansea City, moving from Liverpool on a free transfer. Took club from the English Fourth Division to the old First Division and completed second hat-trick of Welsh Cup wins, from 1981-83.

1984: Moved to Portuguese club Sporting Lisbon.

1985: Signed as coach of Real Sociedad of Spain. Won the Spanish Cup in 1987 and the following season guided the side to second place in League.

1989: Appointed Real Madrid coach. Won League championship in first season in charge as side scored 107 League goals - a record that still stands.

1990: 15 November: Sacked as Real Madrid coach after three successive defeats.

1991: Began second spell at Real Sociedad, originally as an adviser and later as head coach.
1994: 28 January: Appointed Wales coach on part-time basis. Resigned after just one game, a 3-1 defeat by Norway.

24 November: Sacked as Real Sociedad coach.

1995: 23 March: Appointed coach of Deportivo La Coruña taking over on 1 July.

1997: 9 February: Resigned from Deportivo.

1997: 25 June: Appointed coach of Turkish club Besiktas. Finished sixth in League.

1999: Yesterday: Returns to Real Madrid as coach after the sacking of Guus Hiddink.

as someone who brought organisation to a talented but disorganised set of players survives.

If he accepts the job he will be Real's third coach since the German, Jupp Heynckes, was sacked despite leading them to their seventh European Cup title last season. Jose Antonio Camacho lasted just 22 days before resigning on a point of principle over the club's treatment of a colleague, and it was

rumoured that the former England coach Glenn Hoddle turned down the job before Hiddink was installed last July.

The demise of the Dutchman, who guided the Netherlands to fourth place in last summer's World Cup, had been predicted since Christmas and accelerated with the recent publication in a Dutch newspaper of an interview in which Hiddink was quoted as criticising Real Madrid's financial structure.

He was quickly and publicly admonished by Sanz for speaking beyond his brief as a coach - but the timing of Hiddink's departure is unusual even by Madrid standards set by the eccentric Jesus Gil at neighbouring Atletico.

Real's Champions' League match against Kiev made an early appointment imperative, and Toshack quickly stepped into the breach.

More football, page 31

REAL MADRID COACHES 1960-99

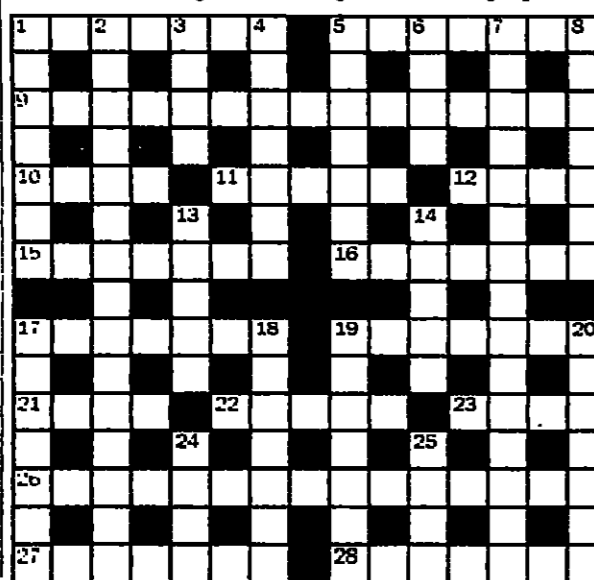
1960-74: Miguel Muñoz (Sp)
1974-77: Miljan Miljanic (Yug)
1977-79: Luis Molowny (Sp)
1979-82: Vujadin Boskov (Yug)
1982-84: Alfredo Di Stefano (Sp)
1984-85: Amancio Amaro (Sp)
1985-86: Molowny
1986-89: Leo Beenhakker (Ned)
1989-90: John Toshack (Wales)

1990: Di Stefano & Jose Antonio Camacho (Sp)
1990-91: Radomir Antic (Yug)
1991-92: Beenhakker
1992-94: Benito Floro (Sp)
1994: Vicente Del Bosque (Sp)
1994-96: Jorge Valdano (Arg)
1996: Arsenio Iglesias (Sp)
1996-97: Fabio Capello (It)
1997-98: Jupp Heynckes (Ger)
1998: Camacho
1998-99: Guus Hiddink (Neth)

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No.3855 Thursday 25 February

by Spurius

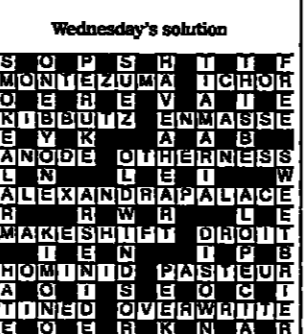


ACROSS

- 1 Acknowledgement as play in translation makes a comeback? (7)
- 5 Understood to have expressed surprise about resistance? (7)
- 9 It helps the viewer assimilate the details (10,5)
- 10 Tyneside doctor returns anorak (4)
- 11 Municipal cricket club, setting for one classic six (5)
- 12 Singer and very old song: writer initially forgotten about (4)
- 15 Compact imported from France (7)
- 16 Tire - car component in the USA, running around the heart of Texas (7)
- 17 English wine you formerly found around mace (7)

DOWN

- 19 A measure of volume (7)
- 21 Statue hard to view from the rear (4)
- 22 Prisoner seen to leave house for the theatre (5)
- 23 Black cat stands in front of grave (4)
- 26 Fourth occasion for celebration by statesmen? (12,3)
- 27 Band initially eschewed electric amplification (7)
- 28 Son involved in lurid porno's seeking financial backer (7)



Wednesday's solution

- 1 Where you'd find it easy, perhaps, to take in bit of Dundee? (7)
- 5 Information on tablet not of Hebrew origin (7)
- 6 Slang usage mostly encountered in old ship (4)
- 7 Women receiving fair treatment, maybe? (9,6)
- 8 Little boy is unable to sing (7)
- 13 Peer: old one originally in political party (5)
- 14 Crude hut in Hungary consumed by fire (5)
- 17 Poetic essayist for example goes into clubs (7)
- 18 Money Court provided to support divorcee somewhat late? (7)
- 19 Soldier turned up in female clothing making us stray from the point (7)
- 20 One hoping to see member toss ball up, leading to extra runs (7)
- 24 Stone left visible after a river rises (4)
- 25 Repeat part of speech one's given (4)

Ronaldo back in training

BY GORDON TYNAN

ALEX FERGUSON's circumspection on Tuesday when told that Ronaldo was in danger of missing next week's European Cup quarter-final appeared to be vindicated yesterday when the Brazilian resumed full training after five weeks of using a special sand-based surface.

The timing of his comeback remains uncertain, however, and the Brazilian striker, who played his last Serie A game in mid-January, will definitely miss Saturday's game against Juventus. The Brazilian has been suffering from tendinitis in both knees since the World Cup.

Another, lesser known, Brazilian, the teenager Rodrigo Gal, is to join Middlesbrough on trial next month. The 19-year-old midfielder was voted the outstanding player in the South American Under-20 Championships in which he was the leading scorer with seven goals. His Brazilian club, Atletico Juvenis, wants a fee of around £2m.

Middlesbrough are still refusing to allow their striker

Marco Branca to resume his career despite another positive fitness report. The Italian returned to the club this week claiming he was fit to resume playing after just 20 minutes of action in the last nine months.

His career had been put on hold in October when Middlesbrough's orthopaedic consultant ruled a severe knee problem would no longer stand up to the rigours of professional football.

The club's spokesman, Dave Allen, said Branca was told of the club doctors diagnosis. "We advised Marco of this in October and invited him to get a second opinion. In view of what's at stake we feel he should follow the course of action every-

one previously agreed, and that is to go and see Dr Dandy in Cambridge," Allen said.

Rangers and Celtic yesterday revealed they are ready to be united in an unprecedented joint shirt sponsorship deal, but no agreement is imminent.

Reports suggested a potential £12m joint shirt sponsorship deal was nearing completion with NTL, the American cable television operators. However, two other firms, understood to be Bell's and Irn Bru, are also involved in preliminary discussions with both clubs.

Rangers' current sponsorship deal with Scottish and Newcastle Breweries expires this summer, although Celtic have a further season remaining with Umbro.

A joint statement from the clubs said: "Celtic FC and Rangers FC can confirm they are currently in joint discussions with three major companies regarding shirt sponsorship. No deal as yet has been concluded."

The sides did share a sponsor back in 1984 when double glazing firm CR Smith were on both teams' jerseys, but that was a result of two separate agreements.

Nottingham Forest are giving a trial to Hector Louis Gordan. The 22-year-old Argentinian right-back plays for

Rosario Central, the old club of Derby's Horacio Carbonari, and has been attracting interest from Espanyol in Spain.

A bid by Bolton's manager, Colin Todd, to sign the Rangers midfielder Derek McInnes has run into an unexpected problem. The player is reluctant to move immediately because his wife is pregnant and due to deliver shortly.

John Gorman, the No 2 to Glenn Hoddle when he was England's coach, said on radio yesterday that the influence of the faith healer Eileen Drewery on the England set-up has been wildly exaggerated. "Training was normal and all the stuff about cults was blown out of all proportion," said Gorman, who went to see Drewery when he had a knee injury while a player with Tottenham over 20 years ago. "She was there for the players if they wanted to use her. One or two lads still go to see Eileen but, from the beginning, she got too much publicity."

The Australian had been suffering from a shoulder problem, but returned as a non-playing substitute in Sunday's goalless draw at Wimbledon. However, he now has a severe dose of flu ahead of Saturday's home match against Coventry - the game John Gregory, the Villa manager, had earmarked for his return.

Bosnich, who is likely to leave Villa at the end of the season, has been advised to stay away from the club's Bodmoor Heath training ground. "He was suffering with flu during the game on Sunday so we have kept him away from the other players for the past couple of days as a caution and he has not trained with us," Gregory said.

"Hopefully he will make a quick recovery because we are pleased with everything he has done so far in terms of coming back from the shoulder problem. He still has three days - but he needs to feel comfortable with his diving before he declares himself fully fit."

Gregory is anxious Bosnich's return as he conceded just two goals in his eight games before the injury - suffered against Saturday's opponents, Coventry, on 3 October.

Bosnich comeback delayed by illness

BY TOMMY STANFORTH

MARK BOSNICH, the Aston Villa goalkeeper who has been out of action through injury for five months, may be forced to delay his comeback because of illness.

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Slur drives out Campbell

KEVIN CAMPBELL said he was determined to leave the Turkish club Trabzonspor following what he said were racist insults from the club's chairman.

"I am first of all a black man," Campbell said in a statement. "I can accept routine criticism, but when comments are made concerning my race, football is not important."

Trabzonspor's chairman, Mehmet Ali Yilmaz, told Turkish television over the weekend that Campbell's performance at the club had been a disappointment. "We bought a can-

nibal who calls himself a striker," he said, describing the striker as "discoloured".

Campbell said he was seeking a move away from the club, which he joined from Nottingham Forest in July last year in a £4m move.

"The chairman's statement is the greatest insult in my life. Nothing, no apology can heal the injury," he said. "My adventure at Trabzonspor is finished. If permission is given for me to leave here with my pride [intact] it would be better." Trabzonspor are currently in

fourth place in the Turkish first division. Campbell has struggled to find the form that saw him score 23 goals for Forest last season and has been in dispute with the club since they were late with a payment on his contract. He appealed to Fifa, which told him to stay when the cash finally arrived, but now he will go back to the game's governing body to demand his immediate release.

West Ham will be interested in Campbell if the fee is much less than the money Trabzonspor paid for him.



Campbell: In happier times at Trabzonspor

THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

'You're through to Talk Radio...'

"This is SportsZone with Alan Parry" "...you're listening to Live and Direct"

"...we are being stitched up like a kipper!" "hello"

"Give Gazza a chance" "I'm Anna Raeburn. If today's the day you feel like you can suffer in silence no more, then we're here for you..."

"Don't worry Christina, ol' Snake Hips Jacobs is on the case..."

'Sandra? Are you still there, Sandra...'

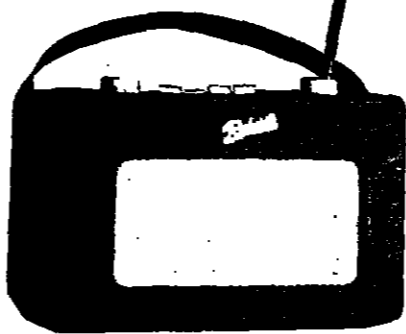
'Get yourself ...on 1053 and 1089 AM'

"I'm glad to say there's such a thing as the National Tremor Foundation. Here's their number"

a solicitor, 'This is Scambusters with Tom, Dick and Harry'

Mary! '...why are you calling?'

'Hello... hello...can you hear me...?'



JOHN WALSH
Tunes In

It's 11.23am, and the producer's suite at Talk Radio is filling up. This segment of the Scott Chisholm show is called "Scambusters", in which members of the public ring in their stories of rip-off and sharp practice. At the microphone, Mr Chisholm is a burly New Zealander, whiskery, tough and weathered as a US marshal circa 1880. He is helping Eric from Wigan to get his money out of a Bradford window manufacturer which owes him £41.67. Poised to assist are Chisholm's producer, Harry Bear, a lanky and bearded figure with an alarming scar, and Tom Petrie, the legendary former news editor of *The Sun*, who sports a sombrero, a beer gut and a pair of headphones.

They phone the company and are put on hold. Minutes tick by. For a cutting-edge zoo-radio show, silence is disastrous. Scott Chisholm feeds a commercial on to the airwaves and comes out to see us. "This is hopeless," he says. "Shall we try the guy with the fridge who was charged a £15 removal fee for going 200 yards?"

But suddenly all is frantic activity. A company director has come on the line in Bradford, the commercial is on its last few bars and Scott is in the wrong room. "Quickly, Scott," says his producer. "You got seconds". With professional cool, Scott introduces Eric from Wigan to Andy from Bradford. "And will you pay him the £41.67 you owe him, Andy?" he asks. "We certainly will," says Andy. "Yeah, but the trouble is, Andy," says Scott, "that Eric has heard all this before and..." "You're talking to a director of the company now," snaps Andy. "And if I say it will be done, then it will." Upon which the studio of nine people erupts into whoops, cries of "Yesss!" and "Result!". A jaunty "Yabba-dabba-doo" hits the airwaves.

Talk Radio is all about interaction. It lives to chat to its listeners. It wants their views, their phone calls and their love. But although it celebrated its fourth birthday on St Valentine's day, it just hasn't made enough conquests to be a viable concern. When Kelvin MacKenzie, at the head of a consortium, bought it up in November for £24.7m, it was losing money at the rate of a million quid a month.

It's a strange beast. For one thing, it doesn't play any music. Nor will you find any cultural debate, any drama or any home-makeover stuff among its schedules. You'll hardly find any features, apart from *My Favourite Year*, an hour-long conflation of *Desert Island Discs* and *The Rock 'n' Roll Years* that goes out on Sunday evenings and was the brainchild of MacKenzie's daughter, Kiershen. What you get all day long, from mused to midnight, is current affairs chat. The whole Talk Radio agenda is set by what's in the papers and what the presenters think listeners will want to talk about. If they get it wrong, and discover that people are phoning in to steer the conversation away from Kosovo and towards *Coronation Street*, the schedules are flexible enough to let them adjust the talk accordingly.

The presenters are a combination of mildly famous media names (Derek Draper, Simon Heffer), disc jockeys (Nicki Horne, David Jacobs) newspapermen (David Banks, Peter Hitchens) and professional controversialists like James Whale. A hefty proportion of the personnel are ex-employees of *The Sun*, *The Mirror* and Rupert Murdoch's worldwide empire. It is not very surprising to learn that 20 per cent of the station is owned by News International. But the listeners at present consti-

tute only 1.6 per cent of the total audience. Can MacKenzie double the figure? Quadruple it? "I'd like to double it. But what'll happen first is almost certainly that we'll lose audience. When you shake up a radio station - radio's the most personal of the mediums - you're bound to lose people."

MacKenzie reserves his finest premier venom for the BBC, about whose casual way with public money he is both furious and jealous. "They're all geniuses when the taxpayer is funding them. Let's see how smart they are when they have to create revenues of their own." He is now trying to emulate Rupert Murdoch's policy at Sky TV of buying up exclusive rights to major sporting events. Next month, Talk Radio has nailed the broadcasting rights to the Holyfield-Lewis boxing match, the Champions League match between Manchester United and Inter Milan, and the Australian Grand Prix. "Of course the BBC can always stick their hands in their pockets and find the money somewhere to defeat us. But we'll win some." And in the meantime, the ebullient MacKenzie presides over the most news-crunching station in the country.

It's 2.30pm and we're in Agony Hour. Emma from Harwich is on the line. Her mother has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's and she feels guilty. "I can't handle going to see her," says the trembly voice on the speakers. "It's like she's just not my Mum any more."

Behind the glass wall, Anna Raeburn makes tiny murmuring noises, a kind of verbal grooming. She is dressed in a violet sweater and looks astonishingly like Elizabeth Taylor, especially round the eyes. "Emma, look," she says, "the mother you once had has gone. And that's the peace you have to make with yourself. What you have to say to yourself is, here's an elderly lady who needs help." Ms Raeburn's delivery is as sharp as cheese-wire; even when expressing tender solicitude, she sounds peremptory. But there's no question that you'd do whatever she says. Emma from Harwich sounds relieved to have had her guilt so swiftly, so forensically, diagnosed and assuaged.

"Hello, Talk Radio. How can I help you? Would you like to speak to Anna?" The producer Vikki Cook repeats the mantra. On the screen before her, the listeners' problems are reduced to a few lines: "Sue, Ipswich. Worried abt 20-yr-old son, recently lost job. Suffers from severe mood swings."

Elgar's "Nimrod" swells dramatically over a chat with Dave from Lewisham, who has developed a tremor in his hand. For a former snooker ace, this is a worrying development. Anna directs him to a relevant organisation. "I'm glad to say there's such a thing as the National Tremor Foundation," she says, possibly the only broadcaster in the world who would know such a thing. "Here's their number." Vikki smiles. "That's nothing," she says. "Last week we had the Restless Legs Support Group, for people who can't stop jiggling, even in bed."

All human life passes through this studio in the agony hour: missing persons, directionless children, aged parents, the solitary, the lovelorn. Intimacies are exchanged. Laura from Bath has rung about her four-year-old who demands to sleep in his mother's bed. Anna and Laura discuss night-lights and monster traps, and make each other laugh. "Laura you're wonderful," says Anna. "If I were four, I'd want to crawl into bed and sleep with you myself."

"Steady on, Anna," choruses the studio people. "Do you know what this place reminds me of?" asked MacKenzie, surveying the long corridor of producers, researchers and presenters hunched

over computer keyboards. A magazine office? He nodded. "A bit buzzy than a magazine, and just short of a national newspaper office at about twenty to seven. It's got the magazine atmosphere because the women are pretty."

Kevin has made sacking people into an art form. He explains each termination smoothly. "We asked Danny Baker and Danny Kelly to talk about football, and effectively Mr Baker rather talked about general subjects. Which is fine. He can talk about general subjects. But if we ask him to talk about football and we're signing his paycheque, he should either do what we want or he should leave." He has also seen off 12 producers and umpteen presenters, including Kirsty Young and Andrew Neil. Ideas have been tried and dropped after only two try-outs. MacKenzie does not believe in waiting for the verdict of focus groups.

It's 3.50pm and Peter Deeley can hardly contain himself. The Prime Minister's speech about the joy of eurocurrency has just been beamed over from the Commons, and he is incandescent with rage. "We are being stitched up like a kipper," he seethes. "We are being conned. Did you hear what he said?" Peter is the Victor Meldrew of Talk Radio, a grizzled, crop-headed curmudgeon of phenomenal toxicity, a man so right-wing that Mrs Thatcher once rang up to ask him to interview her. He is self-confessedly "the voice of Middle England" and shares his afternoon studio with Sally James. A former National Sweetheart, Ms James used to present *Tiswas*, a Saturday morning children's show, in the late Seventies. She has grown up and left behind her trademark V-neck jumpers. She is now a vision in black leather. Her views, surprisingly, accord with Peter Deeley's, although she brings a domesticated, motherly tone to the discourse.

Peter interviews a chap from the Chamber of Commerce down the line. His first question goes on for five minutes, until the microphone, walls and speakers are all flecked with Deeley spittle. "So you're broadly in favour, then?" asks the man on the phone, and Peter is off again.

What's your name?

What are you calling about?

Paula Williams, the producer, reckons she gets about 40 calls per topic, 80 per hour on a good day. Sandra from Luton "can't believe we aren't being given a choice" about the euro. Gary from Swansea thinks they should speed up the referendum. Nobody seems especially well-informed, or any the wiser, despite Peter's vituperations.

You're through to Talk Radio. Sandra? Are you still there, Sandra? During an advertising break, you notice there are five distinct levels of noise going on: Sky TV, the squawking down the phone lines, Peter say-

ing "and we'll have to bail out Spain's rotten economy" to no-one in particular. Craig the studio manager speaking into Sally's headphones, and the commercial itself ("Gonna get myself connected...") beaming over the airwaves. The cacophony makes your head swim. In the studio, the strains of "Deutschland über alles" start up. Deeley affects a German voice: "As I slide yer jackboot up my leg..." Has he flipped? "This referendum is not going to be democratic," he growls by way of explanation. "This is Nazism..."

Grace from Gateshead rings in to ask about how the single currency will affect pensions.

Who are these people that ring up phone-in shows? Aren't they either mad, sad or boring? "That's just not true," said MacKenzie. It was a real wake-up call to me to discover how smart these people are. They're mostly very intelligent, they spark off debate between listeners, they really make a programme. There's lots of knowledge out there. We get doctors, accountants, lawyers, company directors..."

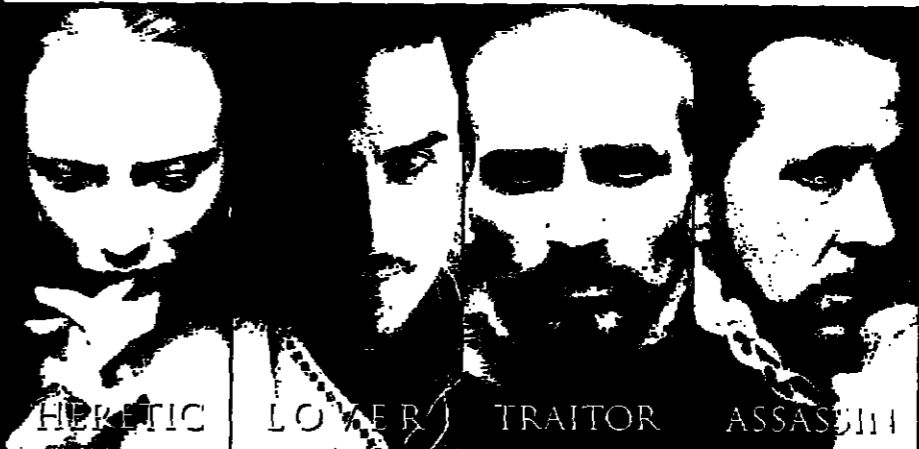
There's an air of excitement about the place because Tuesday night features the "Eubank's Peo-

ple" slot in the middle of the three-hour "Sport-Zone". Tonight Chris, or "Crith" as many of the staff amusingly call him, is having Frank Bruno as his guest. "Chris just rings up his mates and invites them to come on," Clare explains. "Last week it was Linford Christie." Eubank is considered a surprise hit by one and all. The great boxer apparently does not feel comfortable broadcasting from a chair, and tends to dance about the studio and declaim poetry into the microphone on a whim. "He's done Kipling's 'If' and 'Desiderata'," says Ms Furlong. "I'm not sure what's next."

"This is the first step in a long journey," said MacKenzie. "I'm not going anywhere. I hope to be running this company in 10 years, 15 years' time. Even if I lose some of the early rounds, I'm going to keep on coming back. I see speech continuing to grow as a market, as there's more college education. Ask any of the commercial experts, the one thing they all agree on is that radio will continue to grow."

Hello, you're through to Talk Radio. Why are you calling? Hello?

7 ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATIONS INCLUDING BEST FILM BEST ACTRESS



"EVERY NOW AND THEN A PERFORMANCE BLAZES ON THE SCREEN WITH 'OSCAR' WRITTEN ALL OVER IT...AND SO IT IS WITH CATE BLANCHETT"

HARRY COEN • SUNDAY EXPRESS

CATE BLANCHETT • GEOFFREY RUSH • CHRISTOPHER ECCLESTON • JOSEPH FIENNES • RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH

ELIZABETH

SHOWING AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE NOW

INSIDE	Letters	2	Film	10-11	EDUCATION & FAST TRACK
	Leaders and comment	3-5	Fast Track	12	
	Obituaries	6-7	Law	16	
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	Arts	9	Today's TV	20	

'Worst' schools

Sir: My spirits sagged when I saw your crass banner on the school league tables: "Guide to the best and worst primary schools in England" (23 February).

With that unthinking headline you undermined the efforts of thousands of children, teachers and parents throughout the country. When deciding best or worst, the final test results must be measured against starting points.

I am acting head teacher of a "near the bottom of the league" London primary school. We have had real success in bringing children who have only been in the country a few years and are still learning English, traumatised refugee children, and traveller children with limited experience of schooling, close to the benchmark Level 4 for 11-year-olds.

Many of those who had just missed Level 4 had struggled to express themselves in a foreign tongue, had tussled valiantly with complex questions without help, and had made a supreme effort. I dare say a bunch of English children arriving in Kosovo and taking local tests in Albanian might not compare so well with neighbouring schools. Would it be fair for the press to then condemn the schools the English children attended as the "worst in Kosovo"?

Our children achieve really well against the odds and it really hits them when their efforts are dismissed. If our school, with a 26 per cent refugee population and only 30 per cent of Year 6 pupils having attended the school since reception, achieved as well as 90 per cent indigenous schools in the leafy suburbs, there would be something seriously wrong with standards in the suburbs!
MARTIN FRANCIS
London NW10

Sir: My plan to provide free school milk and a muesli bar to all London primary children would not cost not £200m per year (report, 24 February), but around £30m. Indeed, it would probably cost the taxpayer nothing at all, as I firmly believe that I would be able to get the scheme fully sponsored.

London suffers the worst primary health care in the country, and our children are among the least healthy in Europe. We also have some of the worst exam results. Poor nutrition is a leading factor in poor health, and it can also affect work in schools. Teachers report that many children come to school without proper breakfasts. Children who have not had an adequate breakfast are more likely to be distracted in school.

That is why I want to bring back free school milk. Except that I believe we should go one better: a muesli bar and a choice of milk or juice. Even if we had to pay the full cost of purchase and distribution, I believe the cost represents an excellent investment.

Last week I announced my plan to make utilities pay for digging up roads - renting the space at a per hour, per square foot rate. This would force them to co-ordinate their activities, work faster, and therefore reduce congestion and resulting pollution. It would also raise around £200m per year in London - more than enough to pay for my school breakfasts and my express bus system.
JEFFREY ARCHER
(Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare)
House of Lords

Transplant consent

Sir: Dr Michael Wilks, chairman of the BMA's ethics committee (Right of Reply, 23 February) rejects my call (Comment, 19 February) for the automatic availability of cadaver organs for transplantation.

He rejects my analogy with coroner-ordered post-mortem examinations, for which consent is not required and from which there is no opting out. He rightly points out that "in addition to the very different purposes for which the organs are taken, there is the natural feeling that a patient whose heart is beating, even if artificially aided, is different from a corpse".

Sir: The issue is about the consent that an individual gives when he or she signs a donor card, or that Professor John Harris proposes should be enacted in legislation. That consent must be informed, and for this to be the case the individual must be told what is going to take place at the time their organs are removed.

The British criteria for brain-stem death test for lack of function in the part of the brain which

regulates body function. Where the brain stem is irreparably damaged, Dr Andrew Robinson (letter, 24 February) is quite correct in asserting that survival is impossible; but this highlights the very point at the centre of the argument. This is the distinction between the situation where death is certain (circulation has stopped and the body is cold) and where death is inevitable, when the brain stem is dead but cardiac and respiratory function is supported.

The brain-stem death criteria test nothing about function above the brain stem. People who decline to sign a donation card do so because they do not want to have their organs removed while any possibility, however remote, remains that they might have an awareness of this taking place.

The procedure frequently involves an incision from the pubis to the throat, so as to expose all the organs in the abdominal and chest cavities. The breastbone is broken and the ribs spread apart. It is carried out with the lungs ventilated and heartbeat sustained. Certain transplant surgeons have indicated reluctance to allow anaesthesia for the unfounded reason that it might damage the organs. Once the organs have been removed, the ventilator is disconnected. It is only at this point that death is certain in the form accepted by the laity: breathing ceases, the heartbeat stops and the body cools, although death has been declared on the basis of cessation of brain-stem activity some hours before.

These are some of the facts which need consideration before collective public consent to donation is enacted in the form of legislation.
Dr JOHN URQUHART
Consultant Anaesthetist
West Suffolk Hospital
Bury St Edmunds

Sir: Until yesterday, I accepted that the IT industry was leader in geek-speak. At the Caravan Show at the National Exhibition Centre yesterday I discovered differently. The old terms "unladen weight" and "maximum gross weight" have been replaced by "mass in running order" and "maximum technical permissible laden mass". Where is the English language going?
H J HALL
Teakelbury, Gloucestershire

Sir: The letter (February 22) from Lord Attenborough and others claiming that the Thames is threatened by the proposals on the Twickenham Baths site was published the day Richmond upon Thames Council's policy and resources committee unanimously rejected the scheme. The developers are considering whether they can alter their proposals in the light of public opposition, and one of the signatories to the letter has

been co-opted to the panel looking at changes needed. Public opinion in Twickenham has not supported the scheme. That is why Richmond Council has rejected it.
DAVID WILLIAMS
Leader
Richmond upon Thames Council

Sir: Connor Ferris (letter, 22 February) suggests that we need a word for "confident government assurance that there is no danger to the public". I suggest an alternative to his *Gummer*. *Cumtingham* or *Blair*. It is he.
TERENCE JONES
Longford, Gloucester

Sir: The Rev Peter Mullen's Religious Notes (16 February) and John Ashwell's letter (19 February), reminded me of the words of a grandfather attending the baptism of his

IN BRIEF

grandchild in a Somerset village. "Us doesn't come to church, Vicar, but us likes to know you're yer." That is the "pearl of great price", the fact that anyone, churchgoer or not, has the right to expect his parish priest to officiate at important events in the life of the family - baptism, marriage, funerals. It would be wrong for the Church of England to be disestablished and these rights lost.
JOHN FISHER
Wells, Somerset

Sir: Congratulations to George Robertson, on "consigning anti-personnel landmines to history" in pursuit of a global ban on these "obscene weapons" ("Army destroys its last stock of mines", 23 February). Can he now turn his attention to achieving the same objective with nuclear weapons at the non-proliferation treaty conference in April?
NIGEL CHAMBERLAIN
Lazonby, Cumbria

"Mm, that's quite clever, Hermione," she said. "I might get one of my characters to say that one day."
Yours etc

From Mrs Dorothy Goughly
Sir: May I add my small memory of the great lady? I was once playing beside her for the Lady Novels of the Southern Counties XI (I am not a novelist myself but had read widely) when she said to me suddenly out of the blue: "I often think that the expression 'appealing to the umpire' is a curious phrase. I am no great thing of beauty but I find myself appealing to umpires all the time. Does cricket have sexual overtones we wot little of? What do you think, honey-bunch?" Then over was called, we went our separate ways and she never

spoke to me again, but I often think of her wise words, if that is what they were.
Yours etc

From Professor Sir Archie Dunstable

Sir: Further to Mrs Hermione Raven's letter, I can vouch for the fact that even on the cricket field the late Iris Murdoch's mind was hard at work on the craft of fiction. I was lucky enough to be selected for the British Council authors' cricket team that toured India and Pakistan in the early 1950s, and whenever Irish Murdoch let a ball through the outfield, which she did often enough, you could be sure she was working out the plot of a new novel.

"Jack," she said to me one day, "has it ever occurred to you that the

A modified choice

Sir: Roger Iredale (letter, 24 February) chooses a bad example in suggesting that the public does not have a choice between GM and unmodified foods.

Sainsbury's have been selling GM tomato purée for some time, in cans clearly marked as "made from genetically modified tomatoes" and initially flagged as "new". The product is cheaper than the conventional purée next to it on the shelf. The choice has been plain and clear.

We do have the choice, with a little care, simply not to buy foods containing, or which may contain, GM products. We do not need mass-market processed foods; we can do a little more home cooking, and can buy certified organic products such as flour and other cereals, butter, pulses, dried fruits, at not so very much higher prices. I am more inclined towards

getting what we want by exercising such choices than by banning things. The latter can cut both ways, as in the difficulty I have in getting unprocessed milk because of the ban on selling it otherwise than direct from the few farms of origin.
IAN LESLIE
Ludlow, Shropshire

Sir: The only wholly accurate statement about GM foods was made by Francis Bacon about 400 years ago: "Those counsels to which Time hath not been called, Time will not ratify." Such was the case with asbestos, DDT, Thalidomide, untested poisonous agricultural chemicals, animal offal in cattle feed, BSE and so on. The public obviously share Bacon's common-sense view.
ALAN CAMERON
Fort William, Inverness

Millennium strike
Sir: Whilst computer confusion or total collapse at the time of the rollover to the next century may be fascinating to some and frightening to others, there is a more serious consequence of this event beginning to emerge.

I am becoming aware of deep rumblings from lower-paid night workers in the service sector, who might be required to be on duty that night. Words like "unavailable", "sick" and "holiday" are being used, unless they are promised a major millennial bonus in the order of £500 to £1,000.

Employers are going to have to get to grips with this problem very shortly or I can see "utility" directors manning control panels, chief constables walking the beat, no ambulances or fire engines and a distinct shortage of pubs and clubs in which to celebrate the Millennium. Perhaps the Prime Minister may have to answer his own telephone!

For just one night in a thousand years, will this be a time when the meek shall inherit the earth?
MIKE DUTFIELD
Southport, Merseyside

placing of the fielding side in cricket is very like elaborating the plot of a novel? The delicate relationship of slip to point to cover to mid-off and so on, is like the cat's cradle of human relationships - all in love with each other."

"And are the two bowlers a married couple?" I said teasingly. She glanced at me, then at the two moustached men who happened to be sharing the bowling at the time.

"It all depends what you mean by married," she said. "The thing is -"

At that moment a ball whistled past us and I trotted off to get it back from the boundary and when I got back she had changed and gone back to her hotel, so I never found out what the thing was.

Dear old Iris!
Yours etc

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Carnival in Venice No 4: Costumed revellers sporting the garb of the early 19th century

Andrew Burman

Vote for the euro

Sir: Why is all the talk about a euro referendum after the next election? Why not hold it at the same time as the election, a practice common enough in other European countries, which often take advantage of elections for votes on a whole series of issues?

If, as you suggest (leading article, 24 February) Tony Blair comes out of his shell and leads an enthusiastic pro-euro campaign - which stands every chance of being a resounding success - it should do his party and his own political career no harm at all. It would also save time, and the money which would have been spent on a second round of voting could be spent on helping small businesses adjust to the euro.

In fact, while we're at it, we could have a referendum on PR as well. The next government would then have clear remit for its term of office.
DAVE SKINNER
Terouren, Belgium

Sir: As a small business which conducts low-value transactions in Europe we are keen on the euro. We particularly hope it will save us time and money in making and receiving payments. We have taken the DTI advice seriously, and we are involving European customers in euros.

The problem comes when we try to use the banking system. Many UK banks claim to offer euro accounts, with a cheque book if you want it. But when you press them you find that the cheques are treated as foreign currency anywhere outside the UK, so they would be subject to clearing charges in Euroland and would be no more acceptable to the payee than a sterling cheque would be. Indeed the banks say that, because there is no common clearing system in Europe, the same thing would apply to payments between two participating countries such as France and Germany.

We have received very few invoices in euros from the participating countries. Yesterday we did receive one, from a supplier in the Netherlands, specifying that we had to convert the euro total into, and pay in, sterling.
JOHN GRAHAM
Corporate Books
Modbury, Devon

Morocco's claim

Sir: Some press articles and letters to the editor with reference to Ceuta and Melilla report that, according to Spain, Morocco did not exist when Ceuta and Melilla fell into Spanish hands 400 years ago.

Morocco has existed long as a sovereign nation and state since the eighth century when the Idrisids founded their dynasty in Fez. Two Moroccan dynasties, the Almoravids in the 10th and 11th centuries and the Almohads in 12th century, succeeded in including large parts of Spain in their kingdom.

Having recovered its independence in 1956, Morocco has committed itself to claiming its legitimate sovereignty over the national territory, including Ceuta and Melilla, which still remain under Spanish domination.

Determined to resolve conflicts by peaceful means, Morocco has proposed to Spain to set up a joint committee to find the way to hand back the two cities. Morocco has no intention of giving up until an end is put to this anarchistic situation.
AHMED EL RHAIDI
Minister Counsellor for Press
Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco
London SW7

In hiding

Sir: A propos Mr Straw's suggestion that we intervene when people are behaving anti-socially, I recently observed a man behaving aggressively in public and threatening other people with violence. I wanted to remonstrate with him, but you cannot get anywhere near 10 Downing Street these days; the police won't let you.
MICHAEL COYLE
London N21

Golden cricketing moments with Dame Iris Murdoch

IN THE wake of the death of the late lamented Iris Murdoch, I have received many letters of tribute to her and think it only right to print a selection of them today.

From Mr George "Gubby" Trotter OBE

Sir: In all the many and fitting tributes to the late Iris Murdoch I have seen no mention of her abiding love of the old English game of cricket, and I would like to draw attention now to the part she played in its evolving history.

I knew her quite well when she was resident in Paris after the war, drawn there to study the works of the French philosophers; as you probably know, she dedicated her first novel *Under The Net* to M Raymond Queneau, who was presumably some kind of Froggy

writer or thinker. Not my sort of thing - I was sent over to Paris by the Historic Monuments Commission to help remove German graffiti from the Eiffel Tower - but I did come across her when playing for an expatriate cricket XI formed from Englishmen exiled in Paris, and she was often a member of the team.

She was not a great bat, it has to be admitted. Nor bowler. Nor even fielder No. 9, her great forte was arguing with the umpire.

Trained as a philosopher, she had of course a complete grasp of abstruse logic, and when she bore down on an umpire with the apparently guileless words "What do you mean by Not? And what do you mean by Out? Perhaps we could define a few terms here...", then it was a brave umpire who stood his


ground. Most of them would give a man out to avoid arguing with her gimlet eyes.
Yours etc

From Mrs Hermione Raven
Sir: I can vouch for everything in the foregoing letter. Iris's love of cricket was a shining example to us all.

I happened to be fielding next to her when playing for the scratch British Philosophers against Jean-Paul Sartre's XI at an Existentialist Summer Camp in 1949 or 1950, or perhaps both, and as Albert Camus cut lazily at a rising ball outside the off and she equally lazily let it through the slip field, she turned to me and said: "Hermione, in what sense can a woman ever be said to be third man?"
"In the same sense," I said,

"that a highly intelligent and intellectual person can be said to be silly mid-off."

MILES KINGTON
Albert Camus cut lazily at a rising ball outside the off and she equally lazily let it through


"that a highly intelligent and intellectual person can be said to be silly mid-off."

THE INDEPENDENT

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This report places a responsibility on the whole nation

MRS DOREEN Lawrence secretly feared that her son's killers would not be caught and punished because he was black, "but I still hoped for justice". Sir William Macpherson's inquiry has proved that her fears were justified and her hope was forlorn. His report is long and contains a number of recommendations for the Metropolitan Police, but at its heart an ugly truth is implied: in Britain today there is one law for white people and another for black.

A society can be best judged not by how it deals with its successes, but by what it does about its failures. The Independent has reported the inquiry into the police handling of the murder of Stephen Lawrence in depth since it started, because the inquiry is an important test of Britain's collective ability to learn from a deeply distressing event and the bungling that followed in its wake.

There can be no doubt that the Metropolitan Police has failed and continues to fail far too many of the black and Asian people of London - they are five times more likely to be stopped by the police than are white people. While black and Asian people make up 25 per cent of the population of London, they comprise only 4 per cent of the police force. Even under Jack Straw's proposals for a more racially representative police force, that figure will be raised to only 7 per cent. This is still grossly inadequate.

The dangers of Sir William's report, however, are that it may encourage interest to focus obsessively on a number of narrow issues that are irrelevant to the task of tackling the real problems.

First, it may encourage the calls for the head of Sir Paul Condon, the Met's Commissioner. Sir Paul has tried to change the Met's culture, although he has clearly not done enough. But for him to resign - especially since he is in any case due to retire next January - would not help to speed up that process of change. If Sir Paul were hounded from office it might engender a defensive, bunker mentality in police canteens. The Home Secretary is right to keep him.

Second, the report has been caught up in the issue of "institutional racism", an unhelpful piece of semantics. As defined by Sir William, the phrase is an accurate description of the Met. It could equally be applied to the judiciary and various other institutions from which people from ethnic minorities get a rough deal. But paradoxically it also allows those "unwitting" racists among the police to avoid taking personal responsibility for their actions by attaching a value judgement to the force as a whole. It remains a grave injustice that the police officers whose incompetence - whatever its causes - let the murderers go free will escape discipline by retiring early.

The report also took an unexpected route in its call to ditch our ancient right not to be tried twice for the same



offence. But this is a case where a new look at an old civil libertarian assumption finds it wanting. It has always been held that the rule is a safeguard against unpopular but innocent people being tried repeatedly until convicted. But that could be prevented by restricting re-trials to the Court of Appeal, in what it adjudges to be exceptional cases. With that protection, it cannot be right to allow someone acquitted of an offence such as murder to remain unpunished if overwhelming new evidence later comes to light.

However, this is of little relevance to the Lawrence case, because no significant new evidence has emerged since the collapse of the family's private prosecution against the five suspects. Despite the general obsession with finding a way to punish Mr Lawrence's murderers, on the assumption that we know who they are, police incompetence has meant that conclusive evidence linking the suspects to the victim, if it existed, has been lost for ever.

The challenge now for the Met is to ensure that the report's proposals for reform are not allowed to run into

the sand. The police should finally become subject to the Race Relations Act - indeed, the inquiry performed a service by drawing attention to the surprising fact that they were not. And there are grounds for hoping that this Government will pursue the other recommendations in the report, weak though they seem, in a way that the Conservatives failed to do after the Scarman report into the Brixton riots in 1981. Mr Straw has already, for example, moved to prevent police officers evading disciplinary action by going on sick leave or retiring.

But the important lesson to be learnt from the Macpherson report goes much wider than the police. Black and Asian people are treated unfairly in education, in the labour market and by the institutions of the welfare state. Repeated experiments have shown that, when black and white students swap class papers or when "black" and "white" names are submitted on identical CVs, white people gain an advantage.

At its extreme, the question is how to solve the prob-

lem of places such as Eltham, where the self-esteem of some of the white population is so low that stabbing black people is a way of "proving their worth". These problems need to be put in their proper perspective. Eltham must be compared to places such as Jasper, Texas. For all its cowardice and horror, the murder of Mr Lawrence was not planned and was not part of a white supremacist campaign. Britain also has a healthy and growing number of mixed marriages, which indicates that our future may more closely resemble the melting-pot of Brazil than the ghettos of the US or South Africa.

But the tragedy of the death of a young man and the injustice suffered by his parents exposes the complacency of those who believed that racial equality was well on the way to being achieved in this country. As Mr Straw said yesterday: "This report does not place a responsibility on someone else, it places a responsibility on each one of us." For the sake of the memory of all the victims of racial violence, we must rise to that challenge.

The challenge remains: can we rid Britain of murderous racism?

SO THE boiling face of our country is finally lanced as the Lawrence Inquiry Report is published. It is hard not to feel relief as the poison oozes out and the wound is cleaned, bandaged and diagnosed by those we must trust. After all, they include a judge, a bishop and a doctor. But the carbuncle was only a symptom of something more endemic and treacherous, and this is, at least partially, recognised by Macpherson.

The public and the establishment must accept that what the Lawrence started is the beginning and not the end of a long process of honest examination which implicates all of us in this country. To do this, three things are essential. First we must remove from our minds the all-too-familiar faces in this drama - Doreen and Neville Lawrence, the five brutes who stand accused, the unsmiling Imran Khan, the theatrical Mike Mansfield and, up to a point, even Paul Condon, as people.

Second, we must not be coned by words of fine intent by those who know they are culpable. And finally, the Government must be prepared to go much further than a report which, by definition, cannot go beyond certain parameters - although this one has gone further than was expected by making recommendations on education and race legislation. In fact, the most lasting benefits of this report may come from these broader proposals if, as is likely, they are taken on board. The dangerous anomaly in

the 1976 Race Relations Act, which exempted crucial government activities such as policing, criminal justice and immigration in particular, is now to be scrapped.

Great expectations have been raised by this exercise. If there is any indication that the powers that be are trying to avoid radical steps, and that the politics of placation are beginning to play out, it will be intolerable to all of us black and Asian Britons, and to anti-racist white Britons too.

I see this already over the issue of whether Sir Paul Condon should go. Jack Straw says he should stay. The reasons given are unconvincing. If Sir Paul is as decent as his PR suggests, how can he bear not to go? Not only has this man presided over an investigation that the inquiry describes as "marred by a combination of professional incompetence, institutional racism and failure of leadership", he was the person to authorise substantial pay-outs (remember, it is our money) to black people complaining of racist treatment by his officers, who thus escaped punishment. Condon was also in charge when Joy Gardner was killed when being arrested by police and immigration officers. We are in the middle of another set of complaints of bad policing by the families of Ricky Reel and Michael Menson. To keep Condon on is to make a nonsense of the "shame" that Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve says the force now feels. Even more staggering is the new-

YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN
The idea that we are interlopers, to be tolerated at best and killed at worst, is deeply rooted

that Condon has decided to reappoint the Met race equality trainer, one Jerome Mack, who has been paid handsomely (remember it is our money again) over a decade, for providing training many black officers consider utterly pointless. As one of them told me: "Mack just makes racist policemen feel good. That is why they have him."

My concern, though, is not only with Condon and his power. Let us use this period of discontent to consider the wider effects of police racism and what we can do to make our forces more accountable and deserving of the reputation they would wish.

It is vital to start listening to the many other voices of those who have

suffered racist violence; to scrutinise the media responses to what has been going on for half a century; to discuss how our education system has failed young black and white children alike and helped create the racists who killed not only Stephen, but Robin Dugall (15), Rolan Adams (15), David Sadiq (15), Liam Harrison (14), Manish Patel (15), Rikki Reel (18), Imran Khan (15), Michael Menson (29), Ali Ibrahim (21), Ashiq Hussain (21), Ruhullah Aramesh (24), Panchacharam Sathiharan (28), Donna O'Dwyer (26) and 14 others who have been murdered in the United Kingdom during this decade alone.

God alone knows how high the figure would be if we went back further, to include murders such as those of Ahmed Iqbal Ullah (19) in Manchester by another child, and then added on the countless others seriously wounded, such as Mukhtar Ahmad (19), who was a pupil at the Bethnal Green training centre where I used to work, and who came in one day with a face like an Underground map and wildly fearful eyes.

Add to these victims the dozens of black and Irish people who have died of violence inflicted on them by the police while being arrested or in police custody (The Institute of Race Relations has been collating this information as has the Lawrence Inquiry. The list is long and frightening), and you begin to get a true sense of the true picture. If we don't take on the massive task before us, we put at risk the health of our nation.

It really does not matter what we choose to call it (I personally think that the term "institutional racism" used in the Macpherson report is unhelpful, and is already creating more barriers to understanding because, to date, there are at least 12 different meanings of the term) but all the evidence we have before us in this report and many others shows that there is a pervasive culture of racial prejudice, racist assumptions and behaviour in all our public institutions from the Army and police to the self-reverential BBC.

This does not mean that all white people are racist, or that there has been no improvement. But the idea that black and Asian Britons are interlopers, to be tolerated at best and killed at worst, is so deeply rooted in the culture of our institutions that it will take real political will and effective punitive measures to pull these attitudes out and grow something else in their place.

What is remarkable is that we have three political leaders for the first time in our history who are united in their determination to do just this. So I do have hope.

Stephen, you have become the son of this nation in a way that you could never have imagined. As you look down at us today, I hope you can see that nothing can ever be the same again for white or black Britons.

We will make a new country. Those who have been fighting for so long will not let you down by setting for anything less.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"Black youngsters will never be safe on the streets. Nothing has changed."
Doreen Lawrence,
mother of the late Stephen Lawrence

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"The quality of moral behaviour varies in inverse ratio to the number of human beings involved."
Aldous Huxley,
British novelist

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THIS INQUIRY has shown up a huge gulf in the experience of different racial groups in Britain. While the revelations from the inquiry shocked white society they were nothing new to black people, merely an affirmation of what we have held to be self-evident for years - the police treat us like crooks even when we are the victims of crime.

Now, suddenly, racism and racist violence have become NEWS. That is a big change. As for the report, we hope it will

MONITOR
ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
British press comment on the Macpherson Report into the death of Stephen Lawrence

FOR BETTER or worse, "institutional racism" has come to be seen as central to the Lawrence inquiry. If it could be scoured out of the police, the conscious and unconscious racism that holds British society

together would unravel. The Met has the task of protecting almost half the ethnic-minority population of Britain. Change here has a deep importance, which is both symbolic and practical. Sir

William's report is a call for action, not further dialectics. His workmanlike definition of institutionalised racism takes things well beyond Lord Scarman's anxieties about bad apples. Sir William is seeking to replant the orchard. *Evening Standard*

CHANGE WILL only occur when those charged with leading us admit that racial hatred is life within our society, and when they create an environment in which racism cannot

flourish. The Government commissioned this inquiry and has long stated that it is listening to us. We have done our part, led by the Lawrence family. We now expect the Government to tackle racism at every level in society. If it fails to do so, it is doing an injustice to its black electorate.

We are all the poorer for the death of Stephen Lawrence, but his short life must not be wasted. The time for platitudes and talk is over.

The Voice

A woman behaving badly



YVONNE ROBERTS

When she was a lecturer, her dress style made Denise Van Outen look like a Puritan maid

IT'S BEEN a rare treat all this week to witness *The Daily Telegraph* indulging itself in an excess of heroine addiction. Germaine Greer, "the high priestess of feminism", has been spread liberally across its pages in daily extracts of her book, *The Whole Woman*, to appear next month. These were preceded by a treacherous interview that was desperate to remind us how awfully nice and normal - if contradictory - post-menopausal Ms Greer really is.

Meanwhile, the *Daily Mail* has been serialising her life story, written by Christine Wallace, generously described by Ms Greer as a "flesh-eating bacterium". (Not least because Wallace repeatedly peddles the traditional line that it only Greer had found a man who could teach her who's boss, a Petruchio to her Kate, then today we might have been bored to death reading "The Contentedly Married Woman".)

Thirty years ago when *The Female Eunuch*, the book that dared to buck the blokes, was first published, Ms Greer, now 60, couldn't have got herself into either paper except in an exposé revealing that she was a man-eating lesbian with psychopathic tendencies and an unnatural sex drive. So, what's up, chuck?

Or more precisely, has the right become mad about the woman because it believes that Ms Greer has finally swung to its side? Or have they misunderstood her power to restoke the fires that so powerfully fuelled a female uprising all those years ago?

The extracts of the tectonically titled *The Whole Woman* have so far covered, amongst other issues, cosmetic surgery, Barbie, abortion and marriage. It blasts a picture of today's British woman which, in parts, is so unrelentingly depressing that the subliminal message, at least to the *Telegraph* reader, may be: see how miserable your lives have become; see how little feminism has achieved.

Feminism viewed as the problem rather than part of the solution is not, of course, an unknown twist. "Women Face the Nineties," trumpeted *Time* magazine in 1989, "In the Eighties they tried to have it all. Now, they've just plain had it. Is



Germaine Greer: 'a shocking-pink neon light illuminating the arena in which the rest of us struggle to survive with a modicum of dignity'

UPPA

there a future for feminism?" The irony is that in *The Whole Woman*, Greer's intention is to remind younger women why, no matter how powerful the post-feminist propaganda, the battles have certainly not been won.

Women have been sold "fake equality", she rightly claims, when they should have opted for a liberation that "celebrates their differences". The goal, she points out, was never to join the male system, but to change it. Instead, we have unequal pay and armies of women in the workplace burnt out by their efforts to out-men males, while even more are struggling in poverty at the bottom of the pile, "criminalised" as single mothers.

All Greer's books have, of course, been fashioned by her own experiences. The childless sexual libertarian (*The Female Eunuch*) became the baby-besotted woman (*Sex and Destiny*) who has since had neither family nor long-term partner. Then came the doty menopausal spinster with no interest in sex (*The Change*). And now comes the Chastiser, who has time on her hands to tell us how it ought to have been done.

On each occasion, whether you agreed or disagreed with her arguments, she has acted as a superb catalyst: a shocking-pink neon light illuminating the arena in which the rest of us struggle to survive with a modicum of dignity. *The Whole Woman* will have the same effect. What it may not do is act as a catalyst for a younger generation, as she hopes.

The Female Eunuch had a worldwide female audience united because it held an empty glass and sexism was big, bad and brutish. Thirty years on, surveys show that today's teenagers and young women see the glass not as half-empty (as do my generation) but half-full. Many have lost what the writer Linda Grant calls "a sense of vigilance". An awareness that they may be playing in the big boys' world - but only as long as they conform to the rules and standards and attributes that are highly rated by men. It's a male view of life.

The younger women may reject Greer's wake-up call partly because she's made it too easy for them to say, "That's not me." Whole it isn't - yet. They're still too Proud of their Prada.

The point of recognition may come later, when they are made to realise how closely their own sense of self-worth is wedded to the desperately low value placed upon all forms of caring - a value that is decided by males. Greer perhaps underestimates the importance of caring as a radicalising force, because while she has many friends, life has given her little experience of family in the way that the average woman knows it.

Greer is the past mistress of hell-raising, and a joy to read because of that. She's been criticised for being contradictory (who, in a lifetime, isn't?). And she's angry (again) that the system hasn't changed rapidly enough. But she appears far crosser with women themselves for not shaping up at a faster pace.

As all good polemicists do, she cuts the cloth of her argument to the pattern of this thesis, hence the undue grinding pessimism. I would argue that we truly have come a long way, babe. And it's dangerous to overlook, as Greer does, the differences that now exist between women. Too many teenage girls in the bottom third of society are virtually illiterate, living on benefits,

without qualifications. Simultaneously, for the first time in history, the childless professional woman in her twenties is earning more than her male colleague. What will feminism make of these divisions?

I was a student at Warwick University at the same time as Greer was a lecturer, with a dress style that made Denise Van Outen look like a Puritan maid. She gave many of us the ladette guts to believe that you had a right to look sexy without also being assumed to be a bimbo or an easy lay. So why does she despise the "ostentatious sluggishness and disorderly behaviour" of some young women today?

Greer's *Whole Woman* exists, too, in an odd vacuum. What has happened to women has also been drastically affected by what has happened to men. Men, mentioned only fleetingly by Greer, are now experiencing a massive devaluation of their role and identity on a scale that has been familiar to women for centuries. What men make of it partly depends on how much pressure women bring on them to change. Greer may demand that women wean themselves off their taste for the opposite sex (she's had a life-

time of satiation, after all, but what about the beginners?) but a *Whole Woman* prefers a *Whole Man*. How is feminism to contribute to that?

Greer argues that there is no such thing as sisterhood, since women across the generations lack "a community of experience". She's wrong. One universal experience for women is the element of caring for others - they do it in the workplace (methods of management which research indicates are more profitable); they do it at home. Even a child-free woman experiences it. It somehow conditions women to interpret a successful life as meaning more than triumph in work at the expense of a fulfilling private life. It's not about mimicking men, it's about fighting for a balance. And it means redesigning the system.

As Sheila Rowbotham writes in her excellent *A Century of Women*, "Balance, after all, is a word which contains a sense of justice, self-possession and equilibrium; it is also decisively affected by surrounding circumstance." Greer may know nothing about balance - but we need blasters too. And she's simply the best we have.

RIGHT OF REPLY

PETER HEWITT



The chief executive of the Arts Council of England responds to a recent article by Sir Peter Hall

SIR PETER Hall ("A dreadful performance", 22 February) argues that increased Government support for the arts has not got through the Arts Council to frontline arts activity. Wrong. Witness the 9 per cent - that is £1m - increase to the National Theatre, 10 per cent or more to several major orchestras, and increases of up to 100 per cent to a number of small but ground-breaking arts organisations in the year 1998-2000.

Sir Peter argues that the Arts Council's funding policies are elitist. Wrong. Equal emphasis is given to excellence, access and education. As evidence, the Arts Council's support to the regional arts boards will double to £122m in three years.

Sir Peter argues that cash for the arts is being sidelined increasingly to bureaucracy. Wrong. The Arts Council is currently cutting its staffing by half and, so far from taking from the arts, is in fact restoring many millions of pounds to it.

Sir Peter argues that 30 per cent to 40 per cent of theatres are unlikely to be in existence in a year's time. Wrong. In order to avoid indiscriminate damage in any area of the arts, the Arts Council is committed to reviewing its current spending patterns, by art form and by organisation, in the coming months.

It has also created, for the first time in decades, substantial financial flexibility to effect real and lasting change.

Sir Peter argues that all of the problems of the arts would be solved by money alone being thrown at the current pattern of provision. Wrong. It is more complex than that.

Sir Peter would serve the arts so much better if he acknowledged that complexity, and engaged with the real challenges and questions facing all of us working in the arts at this time.

Theatre's glass closet

THEATRE HISTORY tends to be a dark and spiritless place - rather like an empty auditorium. But, occasionally, along comes a drama-studies buff who turns on the house lights, yanks up the curtain and fills the empty seats with a lively pack of punters. Dan Rebellato's 1956 and All That shines a powerful beam into the dusty corners of British theatre history. Not only does he spot a crowd of gay men lounging in the stalls, but he also spotlights a strange and fascinating emotional atmosphere.

Until recently, Fifties culture had a bad press. Before the Swinging Sixties, we imagined, everything was tight-lipped and zipped-up. Gays were "evil", sexual intercourse had not been invented and bishops still wrote letters to *The Times* about perverts, inverts and fallen women. A repressed and repressive era, with the hysteria of moral panics supplementing the rigour of the law, meant that homosexuality was closeted away from view.

Or was it? "In fact," Rebellato argues, "homosexuality in the Forties and Fifties, far from being nowhere, seemed to many to be everywhere." From pink-lit clubs (the inspiration for Rodney Ackland's play *Absolute Hell*) to Army drag revues with titles such as *Soldiers in Skirts*, from hints in mainstream plays to headline cases such as the arrest of John Gielgud in 1953 for importuning, the evidence is irrefutable. Rebellato's list of homosexual thespians is half a page long, a "roll-call of one generation in British theatre". But if gay men were not exactly silent, they had to speak in code. Sometimes, awareness of such codes was comic. At one West End audition, for example, the actor finished his recital and Binkie Beaumont - king of theatre producers - leant forward and asked: "Are you queer?" "No - no, I'm not," stammered the actor. "But it won't show from the front." When homosexuality was illegal, describing it could sound puzzling, almost nonsensical. This anecdote illustrates an acute



THURSDAY BOOK

1956 AND ALL THAT: THE MAKING OF MODERN BRITISH DRAMA
BY DAN REBELLATO, ROUTLEDGE, £12.99

anxiety that homosexuality could be detected through giveaway signs: a boyish face, wearing suede shoes, being unable to whistle or liking the colour green. And it is the presence of such signs - used by playwrights as broad winks to knowing members of their audiences - which makes Fifties drama such a curious place to visit. Far from being repressed, British theatre was teeming with subtle and coded sensibility.

Against this theatre of secret signs and coterie languages, the Royal Court's New Wave writers of the late Fifties - John Osborne, Arnold Wesker and John

Arden - advanced the notion of a theatre of emotional truth and manly vitality. Imbued with a Leavisite ideology of "life", these writers created images of truth speaking out openly, not only against a Tory Establishment, but also in contrast to an effete theatre culture.

In this context, Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*, the radical turning-point of 1956, was evidence of a "blazing determination to bring human emotion back into the centre of cultural life". In a fascinating reading of the play, Rebellato shows how, despite Osborne's later attacks on gays, his work could not avoid

the same devices of concealed subtext and subconscious suggestion as were used other works of the time. While it has always been obvious that there is a homoerotic dynamic between the play's anti-hero, Jimmy Porter, and his friend Cliff, Rebellato also highlights the ambiguity of Jimmy's view of Webster, the onstage queer - and points out that even the checked shirt Jimmy wore in the first production recalls the "clone look" of Fifties gay iconography.

Of course, some of the era's greatest writers - such as Noël Coward and Terence Rattigan - thrived in a climate that was officially homophobic, with the censor forbidding any mention of homosexuality until 1958. What Rebellato questions is the received wisdom that their concealment of sexuality was evidence of conventionality or dullness. Instead, he argues that, in their own way, these writers were as radical as the era's legendary Angry Young Men.

So the accepted story of a virile New Wave sweeping over a neutered middle-class theatre begins to look like a myth. Most accounts of what happened after 1956 are narratives of liberation, the story being that gradually chains were cast off and gays came out of the closet. Rebellato shows that such metaphor-heavy accounts are only half-truths, and tend to obscure as much as they illuminate. He uses the more striking image of the glass closet - even when it's illegal, homosexuality can still be transparent.

With additional chapters on arts funding, theatre technicians and Britain's fraught relations with foreign drama, *1956 and All That* is a brilliant and provocative re-evaluation of post-war British theatre. It will excite anyone who is not content with easy answers and wants to explore a lost age. Sprinkled with theoretical asides, this is an enjoyable readable, detailed and complex account. Postwar theatre history will never be the same again.

ALEXIS SURZ

THURSDAY POEM

TAKE ME BY THE HAND
BY JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

Take me, someone, by the hand,
Lead me down the hill,
Put me by the fire's side.

The buses strain and skid on the cinders.
We totter and slip upwards.
My fingers, screwed tight,
Whiten from the tip.

Take me, someone, by the hand,
Lead me down the hill,
Put me by the fire's side.

This poem comes from Jeffrey Wainwright's new collection
'Out of the Air' (Carcanet, £6.95)

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Lady Pansy Lamb

LADY PANSY Lamb was a curious link between the so-called Bright Young Things of the 1920s and a very different world of intellectual and spiritual aspiration. Not that she herself was a bright young thing in the accepted sense. When *Brideshead Revisited* appeared in 1945 she wrote perceptively to Evelyn Waugh, in whose life she had played an important part, saying, "You see English Society of the 30s as something baroque and magnificent on its last legs... I fled from it because it seemed prosperous, bourgeois and practical and I believe it still is."

Her father, the fourth Earl of Longford, was killed at Gallipoli, leaving his widow to bring up two sons and four daughters. Most unusually for those days and those circles, Pansy, who was the eldest girl, born in 1904, was allowed to set up in a flat in London with a friend, Evelyn Gardner, daughter of Lord Burghclere. They paid £1 15s a week for two rooms in Ebury Street, with a small supplement for the occasional use of a sitting-room.

Their mothers were friends, and thought (wrongly) that each would be a good influence on the other. Pansy being earnest and idealistic and Evelyn frankly frivolous, having been engaged to no less than nine men before her brief and disastrous

marriage, in 1928, to Evelyn Waugh. Pansy later reproached herself for having encouraged the marriage, largely because she considered Waugh such an improvement on the other nine. Much later, she was able to give crucial evidence enabling the marriage to be annulled, leaving Waugh, who was then a Roman Catholic, free to remarry.

After a brief job in an architect's office, Pansy married, also in 1928, the successful painter Henry Lamb, 19 years her senior, who had been separated, though not divorced, from his first wife, Euphemia, for over 20 years. In 1931, under her maiden name, Pansy Pakenham, she published a novel, *August*, a fascinating period piece, sadly unobtainable today which is based on the world of Garsington, whose chateau Lady Ottoline Morrell had had an affair with Lamb many years before he met Pansy. She described that circle as huddled together in a fortified monastery, where, safe from the gross assaults of the outside world, they could nevertheless chastise it with sharp arrows shot from commanding loopholes... A delightful sense of intimacy prevailed, and the cruder forms of christianism were unknown.

The Lambs settled happily at Coombe Bissett near Salisbury, and their circle of friends included David Cecil, John Betjeman, Bryan Guinness, L.P. Hartley and Katharine Asquith. When the Second World War came Pansy expressed her warm admiration for de Gaulle and the Free French by organising on their behalf a loan exhibition of pictures from great collections in Wiltshire, no mean feat in wartime.

After her husband's death in 1960, she moved to London and continued her intellectual pursuits, translating a volume of poems by Charles Peguy and later working on an edition of the letters of Dickens. (Her first book, *The Old Expedition*, a novel, had appeared - from Evelyn Waugh's father's publishing house, Chapman and Hall - in 1928; she was also the author of *King Charles I*, for Duckworth's "Great Lives" series, in 1936.)



Drawing of Pansy Pakenham by Henry Lamb in 1926. They married in 1928



Pansy and Henry Lamb with, centre, left to right, Vivien and Poppet John, daughters of Augustus John, Easter 1929

Hulton Getty

Her deep and long-standing interest in theology and church history eventually led her into the Catholic Church, though she was discouraged by the abandonment of the Latin Mass and by what she saw as the general slackening of the Church's framework at the time of the Second Vatican Council. Her perception and acute approach compensated to some degree for the lack of intellectual technique which a university education might have provided.

Tiring of London, in 1981 she moved to a small flat in Rome. Her spiritual progress had been accelerated under the influence of Cardinal Danielou and by two close friends, Pierre and Rosalynne Fortin, who lived in Rome and made a great difference to her early days there. So did a younger couple, Margaret FitzHerbert, the favourite daughter of Evelyn Waugh, and her husband, Giles, who was then at the British Embassy.

She also worked for the Samaritans, where her calm and utterly unselfconscious temperament was a great asset. On giving up this work owing to failing eyesight, she became an exceptionally conscientious guide at St Peter's, sitting out in all weathers on a bench outside the main entrance and guiding innumerable visitors to their targets. She also developed an ardent personal devotion to Pope John Paul II, and never missed witnessing his public appearances.

Like other members of her gifted family, she was always happy to propound her theories, sometimes at considerable length, for the benefit of others. Without sharing any of the foibles of her surviving brother, the present Lord Longford, she viewed them with the benign tolerance of a slightly older and wiser sister.

Pansy Lamb had a great natural gift of articulate clarity in conversation, and it is sad to think that the

unique timbre of her voice will never be heard again. She was also completely at home with children, and on her 90th birthday took a childlike delight in the many homemade presents from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her Roman landlady claimed that even in extreme old age Lady Pansy often seemed to be the youngest person in the room.

JOHN JOLLIFFE

The Pakenham family nearly all have great advantages - perfect complexions, hair like gold wire and voices of cajoling calm and softness, writes Frances Partridge.

I first met Pansy when she was engaged to marry Henry Lamb, who was a remarkable-looking man in his own right, and whose countenance impressed by its intelligence in a way that had a certain fierceness about it as well as humour. It seemed as though Pansy

had been born to act as a model for his elegant pencil drawings. She might have got her name from her beautiful blue-grey eyes fringed with black lashes.

As the mother of three children she was kept busy by their family life at Coombe Bissett which was faintly touched with a Bohemian lifestyle, but Pansy herself found plenty of time to read. She had never been sent to school, but was strictly self-educated.

She was widely and deeply read, and history was her favourite subject. I remember arriving at the London Library once when she was coming out and being fixed in the door of my Mini while a torrent of talk flowed from Pansy about "a most interesting book about the Mediterranean. Henry is reading it too."

In 1954 my husband, Ralph, and I were paying our first visit to Rome together, when we heard Pansy's soft

velvety voice talking into the well of our hotel (it was hot summer). It was also Henry's first visit, and I can remember clearly the eagerness with which he pulled on a little cotton cap with a peak, and darted off on his sight-seeing trips. Pansy was overflowing with enthusiasm and facts. They were a splendid pair to go around Rome with, and of us four I think Pansy had done her homework best. She must have fallen in love then and decided to spend the end of her life there.

Pansy's courage was immense. She became very nearly blind and she flew alone to England to visit her grown-up children and their families. She travelled by air, tube, train, but hardly ever took a taxi.

Margaret Pansy Felicia Pakenham, writer: born London 18 May 1904; married 1928 Henry Lamb (died 1960; one son, two daughters); died London 19 February 1999.

Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Martell

HUGH MARTELL joined the Navy from Edinburgh Academy in 1926 and left it in 1968, giving the impression that he had enjoyed all 42 years.

He is remembered by an unusually large sample of naval society because of his forceful role as Admiral Commanding Reserves, by defence historians for his part as commander of the naval element in Operation Nosis, the series of British nuclear tests at the Monte Bello Islands, and by pretty well all the other people that he met for the sheer force of his personality. He was the father of 14 children, and in retirement served not only the defence electronics firm Racal, but also the European operations of Penthouse and related publications.

Martell's middle name, Colenso, suggested some ancestral connection with the South African war, although his father had been an engineer-captain in the Royal Navy. He qualified as a gunnery officer in 1938 after the long course at the gunnery school, HMS Excellent, on Whale Island, Portsmouth, and when the Second World War broke out was a lieutenant in Nelson, the Home Fleet flagship.

When she was mined, he went back to the gunnery school, from which he went to Dunkirk and then to the heavy cruiser *Berwick* in the Home Fleet, which involved Russian convoys. After a refresher course at Whale Island he was appointed as gunnery officer of the famous *Ilustrious* in which he served in the Far East and Pacific Fleets, surviving the kamikaze attacks off Okinawa.

He was mentioned in despatches and promoted Commander in 1945, relieved to have got his brass baton before the Fleet began to dwindle with peace and the need for economies. He spent a year as Naval Assistant to the Director of the Ordnance Board, that archaic body which at least had an official issue of sherry and in 1947 was given his first command, the battle class destroyer *Shigs*.

The next decade was orthodox - Commander (G) in the Royal Naval Barracks at Devonport, staff of Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, naval adviser in the Ministry of Supply and then promotion to Captain in 1955, appointed to *Bigbury Bay* and in command of the 7th Flotilla. He had overtaken the mass of wartime veterans, all experienced seamen but just too senior now to expect more sea time; in fact Martell could scarcely expect a third command.

But in 1956 he was appointed to command the eight ships of Task Force 308 and, his Commodore's pennant in the tank landing ship *Norvik*, arrived that May off the Monte Bello Islands, the archipelago near the coast of Western Australia. There was urgent operational research to be done before Operation Grapple, the series of tests on the use of atomic bombs as triggers for their thermo-nuclear descendants which would be carried out at Christmas Island the following year. The first bomb, "Hotshot", was detonated on 16 May, at 15 kilotons, it was more powerful than the



Martell in his office at Penthouse, where he served as vice-president (Europe) after 42 years in the Navy

Hulton Getty

Hiroshima or Nagasaki explosions, and in June was followed by "Flashlight", vastly more powerful at 98 kilotons. All seemed to have gone well; the scientists were satisfied, and Martell was appointed CBE and sent to Belgrave Square for the 1957 course at the Imperial Defence College.

As expected, there was no more sea time, but at least he went back to *Excellent* in 1958 as Captain of his Alma Mater before returning to

Whitehall as Director of Tactical and Weapons Policy in 1959. And then, he said to his astonishment, he was appointed Admiral Commanding Reserves. Apart from two notable exceptions, this had traditionally been a Vice-Admiral's post; Martell was the first of six Rear-Admirals to hold it before it was abolished.

Martell was an ardent Admiral, and reversed a turgid trend in the history of the Reserves. Many of the old RNRV had resented

their merger with the old RNR, and the obvious use of that name for the new combined, if not always united, body.

It took some time for the new concept of a naval service with more integrated regular and reserves components to dispel the notion of a separate part-time navy and, perhaps wisely and perhaps fortuitously, Martell began the process of integration when, contriving to "borrow" the retiring cruiser *Belfast*, he

completed her crew with Sea Cadets and mobilised all the Coastal Minesweepers of the 11 RNR Divisions, and hoisted his flag and sailed for Gibraltar. A base party, including members of the WRNR, was flown out, and two weeks of intensive and realistic training took place. It was hard to convince Nato allies that the ships were manned almost entirely by part-time reservists, and the mission did much to restore the confidence and image of the new

RNR, becoming a four-week event for many years.

Martell was promoted Vice-Admiral and returned to the Mediterranean as Chief of the Allied staff until he retired in 1968. His retirement was disturbed in 1985 when an Australian Royal Commission, inquiring in London into the safety of the Monte Bello tests, alleged that because of a change in the direction of the wind, the mainland had been contaminated. Martell was adamant that his orders had provided for such an eventuality, and resented the tone of the investigation.

Martell married twice. His first wife, Marguerite, was the daughter of Sir Dymoke White Bt; they had five sons and a daughter before the marriage was dissolved. He then married Margaret Glover, and they had two sons and six daughters.

A. E. SAINSBURY

Hugh Colenso Martell, naval officer: born 6 May 1912; Overall Operational Commander, Nuclear Tests in Monte Bello Islands 1956; CBE 1957, KBE 1968; Director of Tactical and Weapons Policy, Admiralty, and Naval Member, Defence Research Policy Staff, Ministry of Defence 1959-62; Admiral Commanding Reserves and Director-General, Naval Recruiting 1962-65; CBE 1965; Chief of Allied Staff, Mediterranean, Aegean and Black Sea 1965-67; married first Marguerite White (five sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved), second Margaret Glover (two sons, six daughters); died 25 December 1998.

Karin Waehner

KARIN WAEHNER was not widely famous, but she exercised a far-reaching influence and enabled others to become famous. She came from Germany, but worked in France, where along with two Americans - Alwin Nikolais and Viola Farber, who was also of German origin - she was instrumental in breaking the monopoly of classical ballet and establishing contempo-

rary dance as a vigorously creative and highly visible force.

Part of American modern dance evolved out of Germany and Waehner shared a common style of movement with Nikolais, whose teacher Hanya Holm had been taught by the seminal Mary Wigman. But she was closer to its roots, having studied in Berlin with Wigman herself.

Waehner was born in 1926 in

Gleiwitz in Germany (now Gliwice, Poland). In 1950 she moved to Buenos Aires, where she taught modern dance until 1953, when she met the mime Marcel Marceau. He inspired her to leave for Paris and to study mime with Etienne Decroux. In Paris she also opened a dance school and choreographed. She appeared with Jerome Andrews as Les Compagnons de la Danse, co-

founded the experimental Théâtre d'Essai de la Danse in 1955 and started her own touring Ballets Contemporains Karin Waehner in 1959.

She choreographed some 40 pieces and wrote a treatise, *Outillage chorégraphique*, analysing the components of creating movement. But it was as a teacher that she had her most lasting impact. Angolín Prelocaj, France's most prominent

contemporary-dance choreographer, whose own company has played several successful seasons in London, trained with her at the Schola Cantorum in Paris where she initiated contemporary dance teaching.

"I had already studied ballet and she opened my eyes to contemporary dance - to its passion for creation, improvisation and new forms," he says. "Coming from the Wigman

expressionist tradition, her movement had a generosity, a way of going to extremes. Expressionism signifies something emerging from the inside and there was in her style a maximum of amplitude and sincerity."

Karin Waehner also possessed those qualities as a person and selflessly battled for her pupils. "She spurred you on. When your morale was at its lowest ebb, she would urge

you back on to your dance track," says Prelocaj. She organised a grant for him because he couldn't afford her classes. "She was a spiritual mother, she nurtured me in dance."

NADINE MEISNER

Karin Waehner, dancer, choreographer and teacher: born Gleiwitz, Germany 12 March 1926; died 17 February 1999.

General André Devigny

THE NAME of Devigny was for a time the best known of any hero of the French Resistance. In April 1943 André Devigny was arrested by the Germans and taken to Lyons where he was imprisoned in Fort Montluc. There he was tortured by the infamous Gestapo officer Klaus Barbie, and his assistants. He resisted their torture and gave no secrets away concerning the Resistance. But he began a series of attempted escapes from the prison, none of which were successful. After each failed escape, Devigny was punished. Finally on 20 August 1943 a German military court sentenced him to death. He was due to be executed on 28 August. He escaped three days before that date, on 25 August.

In 1956, when he was serving in Algeria, Devigny wrote his account of how he, a condemned man, had escaped from the death penalty. The writer-director Robert Bresson seized the opportunity of making a film out of the book, keeping the same title, *Un Condamné à mort s'est échappé*. This proved to be not only an exciting film, but, more than this, an achievement.

Truffaut described it as being the most decisive film of the last 10 years. Not using professional actors, Bresson showed Devigny and a younger companion in all the details of their escape: using a pin to unlock their handcuffs, making a spoon into an effective tool, patiently taking a lock to pieces. The close-ups of hands and faces were accompanied by sonorous prison sounds – the jingle of keys, locks being turned, steps getting closer. The film won a prize at the Cannes festival, and items from the prison have been put in the resistance museum in Gifères, as a souvenir of the episode.

Apart from the matter of the film, Devigny's wartime experience was extensive and dramatic. Having started life as a schoolteacher, he joined the army and was trained as an infantry and light tank officer just before the outbreak of war. He played a full part in the fighting of 1940 and was mentioned four times in despatches. In June he was badly wounded and this prevented him from joining General de Gaulle in London.

Transferred to the Lyons region, Devigny took part in the growing resistance to the Germans which characterised many army officers at this time. He used the code-name Valentin, and since many of his fellow-officers, unlike him, were clear in their hostility to the Germans but uncertain as to their attitude towards de Gaulle, Devigny found himself moving into areas where the British Special Overseas Executive were active. It was under their control that he spent some time in Spanish Morocco co-ordinating information about German movements and intentions.

In October 1942 Devigny became a member of a new resistance group (at about the time when the name "Resistance" had gained the right to its capital "R"). This was the network "Gilbert", a Christian name of Colonel Groussard, formerly the deputy commander of the military school of Saint Cyr, who had established himself in Switzerland from where he commanded an organisation that stretched, via Lyons, the "capital" of the Resistance, to Toulouse and south-eastern France.

Devigny was to become one of the



Robert Bresson's 1956 film *Un Condamné à mort s'est échappé* was based directly on Devigny's account

three commanders of this organisation, along with Groussard and Jean Cambus, a headmaster in Lyons. Their activities were varied. They helped refugees to gain access to Switzerland, they sent information by radio, and via the British vice-consul in Geneva, Victor Farrell, they organised the sabotage of German war material.

Devigny, who had been born in the department of the Haute-Savoie, made his base at Annemasse, a small town near the Swiss frontier. There a young woman of Belgian origin, Edmée Delétraz, had

joined Devigny on the railway station at Annemasse that he was arrested and sent to Montluc. Subsequently she was suspected of being the source of information that led the Germans to capture Jean Moulin. Devigny always rejected this accusation and fiercely defended her. After his escape from Montluc, Devigny was captured again and escaped again. The Germans took their revenge by arresting two of his cousins and sending them to the death camps. After spending some time in Switzerland and Spain (where he was again im-

prisoned and again escaped), Devigny

rejoined the French army and took part in the liberation of Alsace. In December 1945 he was made a Companion of the Liberation with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

He was appointed to intelligence work, mainly concerned with the detail of disbanding units of Fighting France and of the Resistance. In this work he became associated with several ministers and he was transferred to a newly created counter-espionage organisation. He served in Algeria but in 1964

he was recalled to Paris to conduct a secret reorganisation of the military. Certain officers, often in contact with the police, were increasingly hostile to the government and to the administration. The independence of Algeria appeared to be the first step in the decline of France. The kidnapping and death of the Moroccan opposition leader Ben Barka (28 October 1965) was a manifestation of this discontent, since both police and military units had acted secretly and illegally in this action.

The widespread intelligence reports suggesting that the former prime minister and his wife were involved in the murder of the bodyguard to the film star Alain Delon, in September 1968, were also indicative of this conspiratorial atmosphere. Devigny conducted a purge of suspect officers and presided over courts-martial.

In 1970 Pompidou, now President of the Republic, appointed Alexandre de Marenches as his head of the intelligence services. He immediately dismissed General Jacques Devigny's superior. Devigny therefore resigned and left the army in 1971 with the rank of general.

In addition to numerous French and Belgian decorations, General Devigny was awarded the British Military Cross.

DOUGLAS JOHNSON

André Devigny, soldier: born Habère-Lullin, France 25 May 1916; married (two sons, two daughters); died Hauteville-sur-Fier, France 12 February 1999.

Bresson showed all the details of the escape – the pin to unlock their handcuffs, a spoon being turned into an effective tool. Truffaut called it the most decisive film in 10 years

already helped two British airmen and a number of Jews to cross into Switzerland. Devigny recruited her and she was a valuable member of the group.

However, in April 1943, an Alsatian who had been working at the powder factory at Toulouse when the Gilbert network sabotaged it, decided to take his revenge. Robert Moog, using a number of false names, infiltrated the network and betrayed several members to the Germans. These included Edmée Delétraz, whom he obliged to work for the Gestapo. It was after she had encoun-

tered Devigny on the railway station at Annemasse that he was arrested and sent to Montluc. Subsequently she was suspected of being the source of information that led the Germans to capture Jean Moulin. Devigny always rejected this accusation and fiercely defended her.

After his escape from Montluc, Devigny was captured again and escaped again. The Germans took their revenge by arresting two of his cousins and sending them to the death camps. After spending some time in Switzerland and Spain (where he was again im-

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

MORGAN: To Philippa (nee Boston) and David, on 20 May 1998, a daughter, Isadora Grace, a sister for Oscar and Hugo.

DEATHS

WILLETTTS: Ronald Frederick, Emeritus Professor of Greek at Birmingham University, died 19 February 1998. He will be greatly missed by family and friends. Service and cremation at Lodge Hill, Birmingham, on Tuesday 9 March at 1pm. Family flowers only.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at 26.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Trustee, attends a Quarterly Meeting of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, followed

BIRTHDAYS

Miss Jane Ackroyd, sculptor, 42; Miss Elkie Brooks, singer, 54; Mr Tom Courtenay, actor, 62; Lord Crickhowell, former chairman, National Rivers Authority, 65; Sir Antony Duff, former Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Office, 79; Lord Gill, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 57; Sir Alexander Gordon, architect, 82; Mr George Harrison, musician, 56; Mr Edward Kellett-Bowman, MEP, 68; Mr Tony Lloyd MP, Minister of State, Foreign Office, 49; Vice-Admiral Sir Roderick Macdonald, artist, 78; Dr Harvey McGregor QC, former Warden, New College, Oxford, 73; Mr Frederic Mullally, novelist, 79; Dr Lewis Moonie MP, 52; Mr Robert Neame, brewer, 65; Maj-Gen Sir Laurence New, former Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man, 67; Sir Roger Parker, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 76; Lord Putnam, film producer, 58; Lt-Col John Stephenson, former Secretary, MCC, 68; Professor Sir

Stewart Sutherland, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Edinburgh University, 58; Sir Ian Wallace, company director and politician, 83; Dr Graham Warren, principal scientist, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, 51; Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth, former Clerk of the Parliaments, 65; Marshal of the RAF Sir Keith Williamson, former Chief of the Air Staff, 71.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Pierre-Firmin-Auguste Renouit, painter, 1841; Dame Myra Hess, pianist, 1890; Anthony Burgess, novelist, philologist, composer and critic, 1917. Deaths: Sir Christopher Wren, architect, 1723; Mark Rothko, painter, 1970; Tennessee (Thomas Lanier) Williams, playwright, 1983. On this day: a Communist coup took place in Czechoslovakia and a People's Republic was proclaimed, 1948. Today is the Feast Day of St Caesarius of Nazianzen. St Calixtus Caravario, St Ethelbert of Kent, St Ger-

land, St Louis Versiglia, St Tarasius, St Victorinus of Corinth and his Companions and St Walburga.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Jan Ross-Munro, "Classical and Natural Ornament in the 17th-century Decorative Arts", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Michael Ricketts, "The Work of Thomas Demand", 1pm. British Museum: Hilary Williams, "Drawings and the Grandeur of Rome in the Age of Bernini", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Peter Funnell, "John Everett Millais Series: Millais' portraits", 1.10pm. Royal Holloway, Egham, Surrey: Professor Steven Rose, "Biology and Human Freedom", 5.30pm.

SCHOOLS

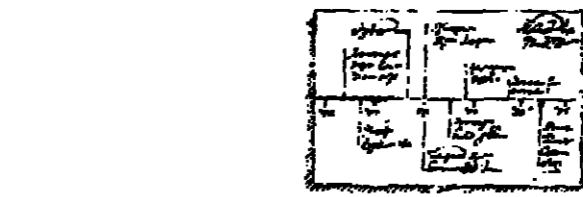
Hill House Former pupils and staff are invited to a reception on 23 April to celebrate the 50th

anniversary of the foundation of Hill House and the 90th birthday of Colonel Townend. Please write to the school, Hill House International Junior School, 17 Hans Place, London SW1X 0EP, with your current address and dates at Hill House for full details and an invitation.

INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

The following have been elected Fellows of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers:

Mr M.J. Bailey, Sheffield; Dr R. Bartlett, Bradford; Dr E.J. Bird, Bedford; Mr N.C. Blazins, Croydon; Mr J.M. Bradshaw, Manchester; Mr A. Cavanagh, The Earl of Sinton, Colchester; Mr S. Cavill, Bedford; Mr C. Chang, Hong Kong; Mr A.M. Chubb, Middlesex; Dr A.J. Davies, Kent; Mr D. Forde, Kew; Dr J.M. Hale, Gateshead; Mr M.C.W. Hawes, St Albans; Dr B.B. Holmes, Marlborough; Mr J.J. King, Bangor; Mr R. Lamb, Epsom; Dr J. Leach, Epsom; Mr J.C. McMillan, Solihull; Mr B.A.A. Perry, Papan, New Guinea; Dr D. Rhodes, Hampshire; Dr J.E. Smith, Bedford; Mr H.C.A. Taylor, Amsterdam; Mr M.W. Tholen, The Netherlands; Mr J.P. Thomas, Fort Tabor; Mr M.H.C. Thomas, Ramsey; Mr T.G. Wallis, Belfast; Professor J.V. Wood, Bedford.



HISTORICAL NOTES

LYN WEBSTER WILDE

The real Amazons: pragmatic, mysterious

THE AMAZONS are always with us, whether they be Lara Croft, contemporary heroine of the Cyberworld Tomb Raider or Penthesilea, cruelly speared by Achilles in a lost Greek epic from Homer's time. They are certainly alive in our imagination, but did they really exist?

Years of obsessional research have led me to answer: yes – and no. No, because I have not so far come across any hard evidence in the Bronze or Iron ages of separatist tribes of women who copulated once a year with men, mutilated their boys and raised their girls as one-breasted warriors – this is the stereotype of the Amazons we all recognise. Yes, because news is finally percolating over to us in the Western world of graves of women buried with weapons in the Ukrainian and Russian steppes, lands on the borders of the classical Greek world in which the Amazon myth grew up.

These women were indeed warriors – their grave goods were not only classically female accoutrements such as mirrors and jewellery, but also bows and arrows, daggers and short-swords. However, the kurgans (grave-mounds) in which they were buried also contained skeletons of men and sometimes children. Professor Renate Rolle, the pioneer in this field, uncovered one grave in Certornyk in Ukraine in which a woman had been

buried with her baby lying over her breast. That she was a warrior was attested by the worn fingers of her bow-pulling hand, the arrows and short-sword buried with her. Professor Rolle believes that these women were not separatists but tough young nomadic women who knew how to defend their cattle, their children and their goods while their men were away fighting. Ukrainian archaeologists say that 25 per cent of warrior graves from Scythian times were of women.

Other elements of the Amazon myth, the separatism and the sexual freedom, are hidden in many places. But the most intriguing clues come from the Hittite kingdom which lasted in Anatolia (present-day Turkey) for most of the second millennium. The Hittite priestesses and queens who lived in the cities of Zalpa and Kanesh are mentioned in many of the ancient texts: one tells of a queen who had 30 sons in a year, whom she cast upon the waters, and later 30 daughters, whom she brought up. The sons come looking for their mother and end up marrying their sisters.

Of course one woman could not have 30 sons in a year, but a group of women could, if there were goddess-temples in Kanesh, where men could come to be sexually initiated by the temple hierodules, then the children of these unions might indeed be coincidentally of one sex in a certain

period, and the boys would have to be sent away to grow up, while girls might be kept and raised to follow their mothers' profession. We know from other Hittite texts how powerful and troublesome the priestesses were.

These priestesses did not have political power and this would not have been a matriarchal state, but they had a religious power which we, in our Judeo-Christian world, can barely imagine. They could embody the *Shakti* (divine energy) of the goddess just as the Hindu Parvati or the Cretan snake-goddesses did. They would be seen as awesome and powerful women by the men. Could the Amazons be a memory of such a caste of magic women?

The pragmatic Scythian warrior-women and the mysterious Hittite priestesses are more inspiring and more challenging to our modern orthodoxies than the man-hating Amazons of the myths. These "real" Amazons had power but they used it either to protect their families or to participate in the kind of religious practices in which the female aspect of the divine is properly recognised, as it still is in the main religions of the world today. As a man-loving feminist that suits me fine – I prefer the reality to the myth.

Lyn Webster Wilde is the author of *On the Trail of the Women Warriors* (Constable, 8 March, £18.99)

Contemnor might be allowed to call witness

A JUDGE had a discretion to allow a contemnor to adduce evidence, and, if he did so, the witness should be called by the contemnor if acting in person, or by an advocate instructed on his behalf.

The Court of Appeal allowed in part the appeal of Grupo Torras SA against a decision to allow Sheikh Fahad, who was in contempt of court, to call expert witnesses.

Grupo Torras was the holding company of a large group of companies which carried on a variety of businesses in Spain. It commenced proceedings against Sheikh Fahad and others in connection with a series of frauds.

Among the defences raised to the claims were contentions that Grupo Torras lacked capacity to bring the present action, since the shareholders' resolution required by article 134 of the Spanish Companies Act had not been passed before the writ was issued; and that any loss suffered by Grupo Torras had been extinguished when loans and other advances were capitalised in 1991.

Sheikh Fahad did not attend the trial due to ill-health, and, following his failure to comply with various orders made by the judge, he ceased to be legally represented. The trial proceeded, and Sheikh Fahad sent the judge a letter enclosing expert reports of two Spanish law professors relating to the article 134 issue.

The judge gave Sheikh Fahad leave to call one of the Spanish witnesses, and to call expert accountancy evidence in relation to the "no loss" issue. Grupo Torras appealed and the following issues arose:

THURSDAY LAW REPORT

25 FEBRUARY 1999

Grupo Torras SA and another v Sheikh Fahad Mohammed Al Sabah and others

Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Sadley 19 February 1999)

whether, in the circumstances of the case, the judge was entitled to allow Sheikh Fahad to adduce expert evidence when he was in contempt; and whether a party was entitled to adduce evidence when he was not represented and did not propose to be present at the hearing.

Anthony Boswood QC and Andrew Popplewell QC (Baker McKenzie) for Grupo Torras; Sheikh Fahad did not appear and was not represented.

Lord Woolf said that, notwithstanding the willful, contumacious behaviour of Sheikh Fahad, the judge clearly had a discretion to allow the additional evidence to be called.

So far as the Spanish expert witness was concerned, the judge had been perfectly entitled to exercise the discretion as he had: he had rightly appreciated that the circumstances with which he was faced were unlikely to occur often, and it would be wholly

wrong to interpret his decision in relation to that witness as a signal that contemnors in general could ignore court orders without any fear of repercussions.

The witness's evidence went to the issue as to whether Grupo Torras was competent to bring proceedings under Spanish law, which was very close to being an issue going to jurisdiction. Moreover, reliance was being placed on his report which was already in evidence.

The position of the accountancy expert was, however, different. No report of his was already in evidence, and it was by no means clear that his evidence was essential for the just resolution of the issue, i.e. quantum, which was very much one for the judge.

The court had extensive powers to deal with situations where, for good reason, a party was unable to take part in the proceedings in the normal way. There was, however, no reason in the present case for a departure from the normal approach. If the Spanish expert were to be called to give evidence, he should be called by Sheikh Fahad if he chose to act in person, or by an advocate instructed on his behalf. Sheikh Fahad's former legal advisers had acted with propriety in withdrawing from the case in the way in which they had. That did not, however, mean that there was any impediment to counsel and solicitors acting on his behalf in relation to the discrete issue of the competence of Grupo Torras to bring the proceedings.

KATE O'HANLON Barrister

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE callipygous, adj.

his campaign, and callipygous recurs in his fiction ("one does not fall in love with a loud speaker however attractively callipygous").

Wodehouse picked it up, but the entry misses Anthony Burgess – and Humbert's fantasy of "helping a callipygous slave child to climb a column of onyx". Barnes surmises that Nabokov read Huxley and took it for common parlance. We owe it to Huxley's shade to speak of the callipygous Gwyneth Paltrow.

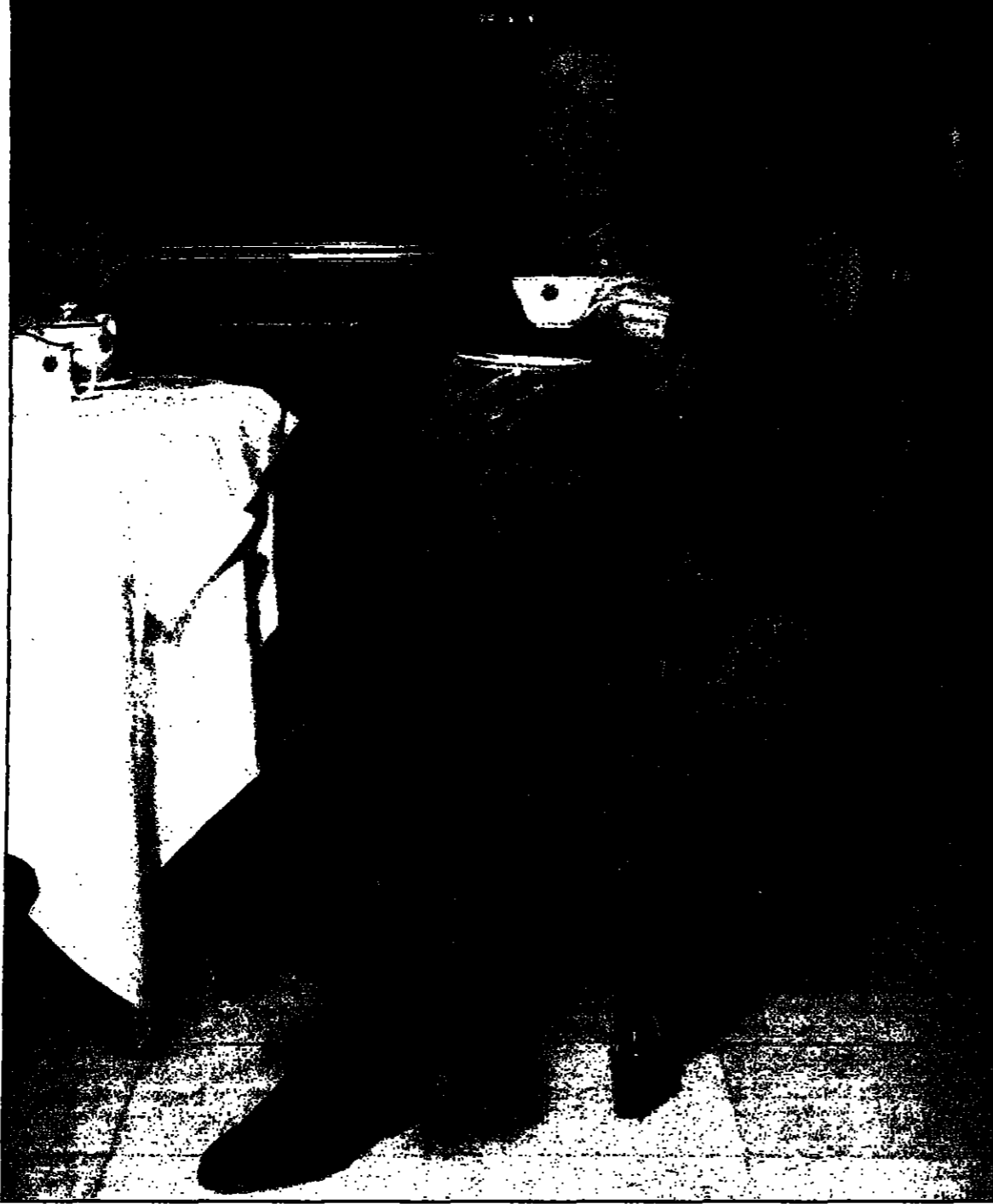
'Don't call me Fonzie'

Happy Days are here again. So how come Henry Winkler's wearing tweed? By Brian Viner

Jo, the charming PR woman who has set up my interview with Henry Winkler - aka Arthur "the Fonzie" Fonze, coolest man on earth - has two black eyes. She not very coolly walked into a glass door. Winkler seems to have that effect on people. While we are talking in his hotel suite, a waiter arrives with mineral water and trips over the rug. A little later, in a nearby coffee shop, I dunk my tie in my cappuccino.

Winkler has come to Britain to promote *Happy Days*, the musical, to which he is attached as "artistic consultant". The show is a touring stage version of the television series that ran from 1974 to 1984. The curious thing about *Happy Days* is that it harked back to the Fifties, so we are getting a double shot of nostalgia.

Engagingly, he makes great play of the fact that he is nothing like his screen alter ego. "I'm Henry Winkler, born to German Jews in New York City. I'm Jewish. I went to private school. If someone like the Fonzie had come up to me and said: 'Waddya looking at?' I'd have said: 'Sir, actually, please enjoy this



Winkler on Winkler: 'How can I fail to be proud of what I've accomplished?'

Charlie Taylor

Orson Welles greeted him with the words: 'We finally meet'

pace, I'm leaving now, let me crawl away." I laugh on cue. Winkler paces around the room smoking a Cuban cigar (most as long as he is (he is 5ft 6in)). He seems to be enjoying himself. It is impossible not to like him.

"My parents," he says, "were very strict, very overbearing. But as soon as they became famous they became the co-producers of Henry Winkler. I meet people all over the world who say: 'Hey, I've got your mother's autograph.' On lanes she walks up and down the aisle saying 'So, you are in show business? Do you know ze Fonzie?' Then she calls me and says 'David Puttnam sends his best regards, he loves ze Fonzie.' Or Shirley MacLaine sends her love. We went backstage to meet her and said 'Who're you?' she was very happy to meet us."

After graduating from the Yale School of Drama, Winkler's highest-profile role was in a commercial for American Airlines. In 1973, he decided to try his luck in Los Angeles, "but since was not exactly the Adonis that inhabits California, I did not expect much success."

Then he heard that the veteran comedy writer Garry Marshall (who was then married to the actress Shirley MacLaine) had written a new show and was auditioning for a bighearted, super-cool, semi-delinquent alien-American.

"So I went to Paramount for the audition, and found lots of actors there, very one of them named Chad. There might have been one Troy. And me, a

Henry. Impolitely, I then ruin the story by reminding him that Mickey Dolenz of The Monkees also auditioned to play the Fonzie.

"Yes," he says, slightly crestfallen. "And a Mickey."

We know what happened next. Winkler was chosen to play the Fonzie, and *Happy Days*, which first aired on ABC in January 1974, became a hit. But in April 1974 Winkler discovered that it was more than a hit. He was asked to go to Little Rock, Arkansas, to sign autographs at a shopping mall. And at 11.30pm, when his plane touched down, there were 3,000 people at the airport to greet him, all wearing Fifties clothes.

"The next day, 8,000 people showed up at the mall," he says. "That's when we started saying: 'Something's happening here.'"

Happy Days was popular enough in Britain, but in America it was a phenomenon. Winkler, who until then had never had much success with women, suddenly found himself fighting them off. In fact, he tended not to fight them off.

"And, at first, I thought it was pretty delicious, but then I started to understand that it was empty and unsatisfying," he says.

Did it trouble him that he could not undo a bra strap as deftly as the Fonzie might have done?

"It was for them to deal with the fact that I was Henry and not Fonzie," he says. "I didn't mind them knowing that

I'd never ridden a motorbike in my life, other than for one scene in *Happy Days* when I nearly killed myself."

Meanwhile, Bette Davis invited Winkler over for dinner. Henry Fonda requested his autograph. Anthony Hopkins asked him to send his mother a signed photograph, and Orson Welles greeted him with the words: "We finally meet." But away from *Happy Days* he was always Henry, never the Fonzie.

"Except," he says, "for three times. I went on *Sesame Street* as Fonzie. And once I was promoting the show in Dallas with Ron (Richie), Anson (Potsie) and Donny (Ralph), and we couldn't get to the car because of the crowds. So I said in Fonzie mode: 'All right, listen up, there are lots of you but only four of us,

so now you're going to part like the Red Sea.' Which they did, but then one guy said: 'Hey, you're so short,' and I said: 'Fuck you, I'm not short.' Then he said: 'Hey, you're so cool!'"

The third time he assumed the personality of the Fonzie occurred just a few weeks ago, when he was in Minnesota addressing a conference of teachers. One of the teachers brought along a 17-year-old autistic boy who could communicate with people only if he, and they, talked like the Fonzie.

"I said: 'Hey, I see that you are actually cooler than I am.' It was overwhelmingly touching," Winkler says.

On other occasions, children with spina bifida have contacted their bodies to give him Fonzie's thumbs-up sign. He was once contacted on the set of *Happy Days* and asked by police in Indiana to talk down a teenager threatening to throw himself from a building. Pregnant women ask him to touch their bellies. It must be hard, given his Christ-like stature in some eyes, not to believe in his own publicity.

He insists that he never has, although he is surely guilty of hyperbole when he claims a 99 per cent recognisability rate

Did it trouble him that he could not undo a bra as deftly as Fonzie?

in the 126 countries where *Happy Days* is still shown - up there with Coca-Cola and Mickey Mouse. Besides, is it not a little sad that, at 52, he is still trading on the glories of a leather-jacketed youth (the jacket, incidentally, is now one of the more popular exhibits at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington)?

I don't think it's sad at all. It would be a sight sadder if he played down the Fonzie's impact on his life, like the actor Bernard Hill, who once came close to tearing me limb from limb for asking him about Yasser Arafat in *Boys from the Blackstuff*. If *Happy Days* were removed from Winkler's CV he would have had a moderately successful career. But he would not be living with his wife and children in Cary Grant's old house just along from the Beverly Hills Hotel, and he is honest enough to acknowledge it.

The same is not true, of course, of his *Happy Days* co-star Ron Howard, who has directed a string of box-office hits, but Winkler does not seem envious, and indeed is godfather to several of Howard's children. Besides, he is touchingly proud of the Fonzie.

"And since my self-image was always down by my ankles, he was the perfect character for me to play. Also, when I compare my life to what my parents had to go through, leaving everything and losing everyone, how can I fail to be proud of what I have accomplished?"

How indeed?

For information on *'Happy Days'* performances, call 0171-836 2795

POETIC LICENCE

COUNTING SHEEP
BY MARTIN NEWELL

Culture Secretary Chris Smith has waded in on the side of *One Man And His Dog* fans. The row over the BBC's decision to axe the programme after 23 years looks set to escalate this week, after Mr Smith spoke out in support of the programme on Radio Four's *Any Questions*.



Among those rain-green purple hills
Beneath that tableau of the clouds
The ruthless choreography
And dressage of the collie "creep"
The smartest dogs to walk the earth
Will wheel and weave - even in dreams
While city workers fall asleep
Yan, tyan, tethera - counting sheep

For here is man but here's his dog
A fir-machine with dustbin breath
As border-collie owners know
They have this look, the collie eye
Reserved for nervous visitors
The children, cats or anything
The creature may identify
As necessary to bring "by"

To see the collies working though,
A symphony in monochrome
From occiput to tip of tail
Along a valley hell-for-leather
Narrow hips and galleon chests
A canny canine SAS
In marinate of Cumbrian weather
Another matter altogether

Yan, tyan, tethera, methera, pimp
The farmers now go down the ramp
And head towards the shedding-ring
As rural England goes for broke
And governed by remote control
Becomes a film-set, set-aside
A tale of complex country folk
Being treated as sort of joke

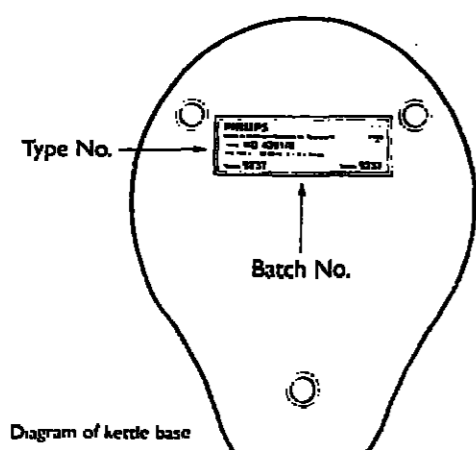
Lethera, hoversa, dowers, dick
The collies bring the last ewes in
And semi-telepathically
Will drive them in a pincer sweep
The smartest dogs to walk the earth
Can wheel and weave, even in dreams
While city workers fall asleep
Yan, tyan, tethera, counting sheep

Yan, tyan, tethera, methera, pimp,
sethera, lethera, hoversa, dowers, dick -
one to 10 in old Cumbrian dialect used
for counting sheep

Philips Safety Recall

Philips Jug Kettles

Type Numbers. HD 4388, HD 4389, HD 4390, HD 4391.



Our ongoing quality assurance programme has identified a possible fault in the above ranges of jug kettles, which might develop after prolonged use and could cause them to malfunction and become unsafe.

IMPORTANT: Please identify if you have one of the kettles shown above and then check the type and batch numbers, which can be found on the base of the kettle. If the type number matches the list above and the four figure batch number starts with the numbers 92 or 93 please stop using the kettle immediately and call the freephone number below. Please have your kettle by you when you phone because we will need to confirm the details before we advise you further.

0800 917 1061

The helpline is open from 8am - 8pm.

No other Philips kettle is affected by this recall.
We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



PHILIPS

DILEMMAS WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

I addressed as "my love" by total strangers, my grandmother used to say: "I cannot reciprocate as I have only ever had one love and I married him. My name is Mrs. Williamson. And yours?" In those days you could get away with such autocratic behaviour. Today, most people would probably mark you down as a tricky old bat. And Sally Palmer. (I will compromise by using both her names) doesn't want to appear pompous. So if she wants to be formal, she should take the initiative. "I am Mrs Palmer," she should say. "How nice to meet you." Or, if addressed as "Sally", she could say "How nice to be on first-name terms. May I ask for yours?"

Every patient should have a choice as to what they're called but, in a more equal society, first names are becoming the norm. The fashion now is anti-hierarchy, and a good thing too. First names seem to have won out. That means that the hierarchy of the old should be discontinued along with everything else. In the past, you'd never call a middle-aged person by their first name unless you knew them well; but now older people

My doctors are too informal

Sally Palmer is fed up with being addressed as 'Sally' by doctors, when they expect her to call them 'Dr'. Will she sound pompous if she makes her feelings clear?

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

The answer is to go private. Your correspondent's dilemma is not in the least trivial - she is encountering the subtle forms of the 20th-century hierarchy, now that forelocking and currying are no longer allowed!

I have told my family that if and when I admitted to hospital, they are to take the ward sister to one side and say "If you really want to make Mrs Jefford feel at home, call her by the nickname we use at home - Ma'am!"

But seriously - I became so upset at being addressed by my first name by dentists and gynaecologists, as I lay supine, powerless and with my mouth or legs open. I opted for private treatment. Luckily I could afford it. It's interesting that it seems to take money to retain your dignity.

MRS GILL JEFFORD
Postcombe, Thame

and relieving any nervousness she may feel. She should explain to them at the first available opportunity that the whole consultation procedure makes her feel uncomfortable and that in order for her to cope with it more easily she would prefer to handle it on a more professional, formal level. Any doctor worth his or her salt will appreciate the patient's anxiety and thus will not be offended at being asked to address her in a more formal manner.

LESLEY LANGLANDS (Mrs),
but you can call me Lesley!
Canary Wharf, London

Doctors need respect too. Mrs Palmer is right to feel offended. There is no other "civilised" way of dealing with this matter, than a polite request that the doctors address her in the way that she prefers. Good manners surely dictate that they comply.

Personally, I will use a patient's surname until they tell me not to, but I prefer to remain "Dr". I am equally annoyed by patients who feel that their airy "Oh, call me John" gives them the right to call me Andrew...

DR ANDREW ROBINSON
Bream, Gloucestershire

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia,
I find it difficult to make decisions. I have a big one on my plate at present - whether to move house or not - but that's not really the issue. It's that I am very bad at coming down on one side or the other. People ask me if I want to go to the movies or out to dinner, for instance, and I just can't make up my mind. Do readers have any ideas on how to make decisions, apart from the usual making lists

of pluses and minuses? I feel I am an eternal ditherer. Yours sincerely, Glenn

Anyone who has their advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from *Ironside*. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for the bouquet

How Penge got its groove back

Dull, narrow-minded, parochial, repressed: the suburbs have always been the object of sophisticated scorn. But behind the net curtains a cultural revolution is taking place. And John Peel has gone in search of its creative energy. By Elisabeth Mahoney

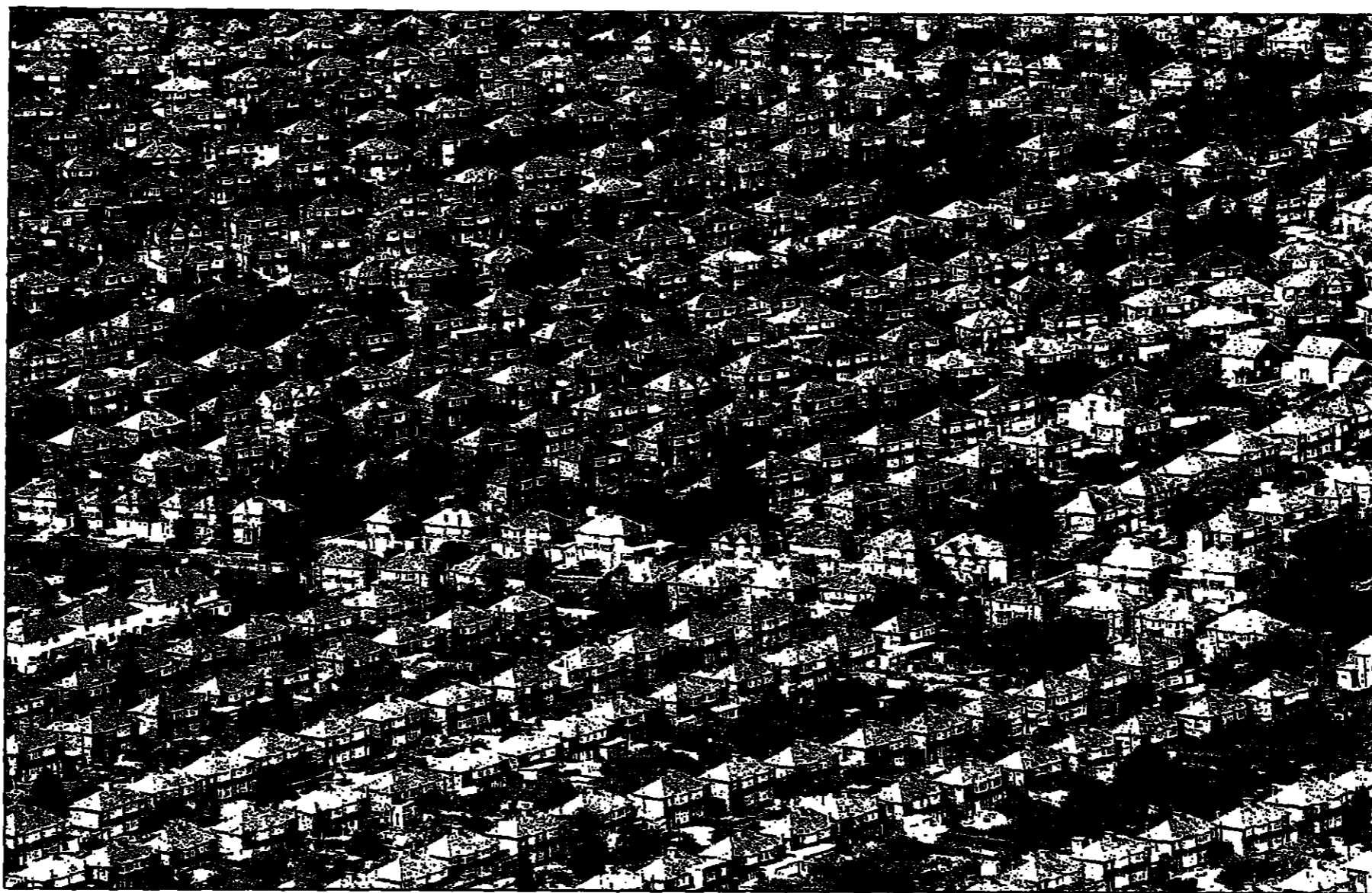
Curtains will twitch. Lawnmowing will cease. Wheelie bins will sit untended and unloved, cars unwashed. Across the UK in the coming months, life as many of us know it will have to pause as we look for evidence of the most unlikely phenomenon: the sudden coolness of the suburbs. Yes, that's right, the streets and tree-lined avenues described by George Orwell as "a fine of semi-detached torture chambers" and as a "bourgeois dormitory" of deadening mediocrity in Julian Barnes's *Metroland*, are, in 1999, basking in new-found hipness.

Described in Hanif Kureishi's *The Buddha of Suburbia* as a place where double-glazing flashes before people's eyes when they die, the suburbs have always had a bad press. John Betjeman, while he expressed a fondness for older, well-established London suburbs in his poems, gave us some unforgettable negative images of life in the urban sprawl. Slough, for example, has never recovered from his poem of the same name ("Come, friendly bombs, and fall on Slough/ It isn't fit for humans now/ There isn't grass to graze a cow/ Swarm over, Death!"). Inhabitants of Slough, prepare to rise up: this may just be your year.

Reading between the cultural lines, there have been signs for a while of this near-seismic shift in thinking. A recent report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Civic Trust showed that the suburbs face becoming the shums of tomorrow, and where once was comfy, cosy, bland living, there's now crisis, crime and decay.

This certainly contradicts the received wisdom about suburban life. And the style police have eased up a little in their disdain for it. Inner-city loft living was declared passé at the same time as interiors went all old-fashioned comfy on us - wall-papers, floral fabrics and Fifties prints are making a big comeback. Staying in was said to be replacing hectic social lives for the coolest dudes. And gardening seemed to usurp sex/drugs/rock'n'roll for everyone else. DIY, cardigans and lavender were inexplicably hot stuff last year, this year, according to *Elle*. Decoration, it'll be sheepskin rugs, wicker baskets and kebabs. Very mid-Seventies Penge.

And then there are all the "real-life" docu-soaps, the nannies/neigh-



The suburbs have always had bad press; but John Peel's new Channel 4 series could herald the genesis of suburban chic

David Rose

bours/builders/pets-from-hell genre, the endless lifestyle media à la *Changing Rooms* and *Garden Stories*, all of it proudly suburban. These same streets are the setting for *Stella Street*, the comedy show that has Michael Caine, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and David Bowie living in what looks like Surbiton - for Bowie, at least, a return to his roots. In art, the Young British Artists have been eclipsed by a new generation of quieter, less shocking, more stay-at-home artists, as seen recently at the ICA's "Stay Young Die Pretty" and Charles Saatchi's "Neurotic Realists", who really could do with getting out more.

As if all this weren't enough, the journalist Miranda Sawyer is bringing out *Park and Ride - Travels in a Suburban Land* this summer, a journey which, we're told, will take in Croydon, Swindon, Cheshire wives and Scottish golfers, hen nights, Romford's bourgeois drug addicts, a meeting with The Light House Family, boy racers and Essex girls. Sawyer's qualification for writing the book? She "spent her formative years in Wilmslow in a white r-a-r skirt and turquoise mascara". Until recently this would have been very bad news indeed; now it's precious fashion sense in a to-die-for location. Maybe Kate Winslet will



star in the film adaptation. But the real launch of suburban chic begins this Saturday with *Sounds of the Suburbs*, a new Channel 4 series presented by that arch granddaddy of cool, John Peel. A musical tour through Britain's

suburbs and satellite towns, it paints a picture of youthful energy, eccentric genius and creative endeavour taking place across the land against the odds. East Kilbride, Newport, the Isle of Wight and Hull are just a few of the decidedly unglamorous pit-stops for Peel and the team. In the first episode, he gets to try that Lanarkshire delicacy, a deep-fried Mars bar; in a later programme the sound man gets stuck in cow poo.

So what's the big attraction? Why stick with suburban sounds rather than heading for the city? "As a bloke who has always lived in the country and rather disliked cities by and large, I was keen to demonstrate that

you can do things from places other than the big cities," explains Peel. "The point is that it is possible, for people who are determined to do so, to get a band together, make music and do local gigs without necessarily moving to Manchester or Glasgow."

The programmes are not meant to offer a guide to the stars of the future. Instead, they're a celebration of that peculiarly British brand of musical creativity funded by Giros and part-time jobs - the antithesis of all the Cool Britannia/Britpop hype. It's a reaction against, as one of the featured musicians puts it, "a lot of dull people doing nothing with their lives". This chap, by the way,

makes music in his tiny Oxford flat by attacking his guitar with drills and plastic false teeth.

It's this spirit which harks back, as does the title of the series, to the heyday and suburban birthplaces of much British punk: that incredible outpouring of angry, demented, brilliant energy from places that had never been on the cultural map before, epitomised by The Members' 1979 song "Sound of the Suburbs".

While some of the featured music may sound very different from its punk predecessors, it's clear that there is still a strong sense of making music directly in reaction to the perceived blandness of suburban life.

Roger Silverstone, professor of Media and Communications at the London School of Economics and editor of *Visions of Suburbia*, a collection of essays published last year, says it's not surprising each generation reacts against the suburban sprawl. "Suburbs are places people want to get out of. They are thought to be dull, narrow-minded, parochial, repressed, aesthetically unappealing and conservative." He adds that it's an accident of history that suburbs have had such a bad press, and it's largely to do with class snobbery.

"The middle classes moved out to the suburbs, but in the 1930s suddenly masses of people began claiming the same things: fresh air and private space. The middle classes, your HG Wells class and your intellectuals, were rather discomfited by this - there was some wonderfully Edwardian dismay about it all." In fact, Silverstone says, the suburbs were seen before this as rather exotic, and slightly saucy places. "The villas in St John's Wood, for example, were built partly for returning colonialists and were also used to keep mistresses in. There was also a marvellous period in the late 19th century when the bungalow, that embodiment of suburbia, was seen as a place of Bohemian inquiry because it did away with the conventional boundaries between public and private rooms by having them on one floor."

So, you heard it here first: suburbs are cool and bungalows are sexy. Something to think about as you recline on your sheepskin rug, nibbling at that snish kebab.

'Sounds of the Suburbs' begins on Channel 4 on Saturday at 11.50pm. A sampler of the CD accompanying the series will be released on Shifty Disco on 1 March. The full double-CD is released on 29 March.

Champion of the clarinet Thanks for the mélodies

REGINALD KELL, Jack Brymer, Alan Hacker, Antony Pay, Michael Collins. Britain has produced a remarkable crop of clarinetists. Alan Hacker, whose 60th birthday was celebrated in a concert presented by the Park Lane Group on Monday, seemed to indicate in discussion with the TV director Barrie Gavin that it was advice from a fellow clarinet student that sealed his career: "I'll be the composer and you be the clarinetist." The fellow student? Harrison Birtwistle.

Despite Birtwistle's admonition, Hacker revealed that he would have preferred to play the oboe, having been overwhelmed by the playing of Leon Goossens. An aunt, however, dissuaded him into believing that oboe players died of consumption. As it is, Hacker, one of the most remarkable players

CLASSICAL
ALAN HACKER
BIRTHDAY CONCERT
PURCELL ROOM, LONDON

of our times, has had to overcome severe disability caused by a spinal thrombosis for the greater part of his career. The wheelchair was always part of the drama. Remember Hacker playing Boulez's *Domaines*, silently wheeling between music stands in a darkened Queen Elizabeth Hall?

Monday's concert was a long one, reflecting the facets of Hacker's career. From a champion of new music - he was a founder member of the Pierrot Players, The Fires of London and Matrix - he became a pioneer in performance on original instruments of classical and early Romantic chamber

music. It was Hacker who made an extended bass clarinet which enabled the lines to be played as originally intended in Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto* and Quintet. And it was on this instrument that Hacker, joined by the Salomon String Quartet, performed Duncan Druce's reconstruction of a Mozart fragment for *Clarinet Quintet K516c*.

Hacker's belief that performance on the original instrument brings back a sense of the contemporary was splendidly underlined by Richard Burnett in a somewhat absent-minded performance of some early Beethoven dances on a modern copy of a 1785 fortepiano, with feisty bass delightfully conjuring up the Viennese salon.

Works by friends - Maxwell Davies's *The Kestrel Paced Around the Sun*, Alexander

Goehr's *Prelude and Fugue* and *Nenia, The Death of Orpheus* by Harrison Birtwistle - were performed by friends: Jane Manning in particularly robust vocal form, Ian Mitchell, James Holland, Edward Pilling and Roger Heaton. Young artists also took part, most notably the soprano Sophie Karthäuser, who was touching in an aria from Handel's *Alcina*, though weakly supported by the Salomon Quartet.

Music spilled into the foyer during the interval, with Liria playing typically appropriate Albanian folk music. But it was Hacker's elegant performance of John Cage's early sonata and his sturdy rendering of Messiaen's *Crépuscule de la nuit* - Hacker's calling-card - that left the impression of an artist indomitable of spirit.

ANNETTE MORREAU

WHEN CLASSICALLY trained voices sing in English, they normally change some of its vowels in order to produce a good, full sound. Only singing actresses, such as Julie Andrews, sing RP English. In art-song or opera, the composite vowel, or diphthong, makes the singing voice sound thin and ugly. So the genteel "o" in "rose" becomes rounder, and something has to be done with the "a" in "say".

It doesn't seem to work like that in French. Although French has no diphthongs, it does have unpromising nasal sounds, and the pinched "u" in "une", which native singers refuse to change even for the sake of song. Yet French composers have achieved something distinctive in setting their language, and the repertoire of the French *mélodie* is very

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L'INVITATION AU VOYAGE
ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE
LONDON

rich, as the pianist Malcolm Martineau and his (British) singers have been proving at St John's, Smith Square in a series running throughout this month and into March.

In one of the early recitals, on 8 February, the soprano Patricia MacMahon sang like a troupier (and sometimes like a trooper). She had lots of warmth and enthusiasm, so that Chabrier's "España" - using the same music as his orchestral piece - suited her well. But her French wasn't at all clear, and might have passed for a regional accent.

The tenor Harry Nicholl, replacing an indisposed Cath-

erine Wyn-Rogers, sounded more at home with the language and less likely to have caused raised eyebrows in a Parisian salon, though he was not very expressive. Towards the end of Chausson's "Les papillons", even the prospect of a kiss failed to excite him. Whether the slow, indulgent tempi in Duparc's "Sous le vent" and "Extase" were his fault or Martineau's remains one of those mysteries endemic in song recitals.

The pianist in the most recent recital on Monday was Simon Over, who was sensitive and precise in Debussy's *Ariettes oubliées* with the young Scottish soprano Lisa Milne - a former pupil of MacMahon's and recently under contract to Scottish Opera. Her voice is supple, bright and sexy, very exciting when she soars above

the stage, and it carried well. By comparison, in Debussy's second set of *Fêtes galantes*, the tenor Toby Spence sounded small and emotionally inhibited. Still, he sang Satie's five *Ludions* neatly and clearly, and if his voice is given time to grow without losing its focus and sweetness, he'll be useful in a world short of agile tenors.

Each singer sang a setting of a fable by La Fontaine composed by André Caplet, best remembered as the man who orchestrated several works by Debussy. They sounded quite different from classic French songs - far from the restrained elegance of most *mélodies*, they were over-written, with the piano part blunting virtually every point in the words by fussy illustration.

ADRIAN JACK

Modern-day Carmen goes west

IF CHRISTOPHER Gable had lived to see Northern Ballet Theatre's *Carmen*, he would surely have loved the way it has turned out. He had the initial idea, but then roped in a team of collaborators to develop it: an approach closer to music-theatre or opera, although Gable and NBT have made a speciality of it.

There is a lot to be said for a process in which the choreographer (Diddy Veldman) is kept on the right dramatic track by the overseeing eye of a director (Patricia Doyle). Veldman - by day a dancer and choreographer with Rambert Dance Company - has never created a full-length narrative before, but you wouldn't know it. She presents a fresh and entirely believable *Carmen* whose transposition to modern-day

BALLET
CARMEN
NORTHERN BALLET
THEATRE
GRAND THEATRE
LEEDS

South America is a stroke of inspiration. For a tale of poverty, crime, heat and law-enforcers with strong-arm tactics, Rio de Janeiro fits the bill exactly. As for the anti-heroine herself, Veldman's depiction and Charlotte Broom's enactment fuse potently and realistically.

Carmen is a cigarette packer and small-time criminal, set apart from other pretty low-life girls by her like "animality", and an absence of inhibition in aiming for what she wants. She prowls and pounces like a cat - on the floor, on tables,

around her victims, all to be caressed by her and conquered. Most of the people around her are crooks or crooked police.

And here is NBT as they have never appeared before, with not a point shoe or entrenchant in sight. Instead, Veldman has opted for a contemporary dance grammar, built out of gesture and movement and carved like calligraphy. She is particularly good at making the dance express feelings or words subtly, without straying into hammy mime. She also takes care to allocate each character their own logical flavour. So Micaela (Olona Wallis) is all delicate, skimming grace, and her duets with her fiancé José are full of tenderness. José, a police officer (poignantly played by Daniel de Andrade), is quiet and re-



Charlotte Broom as Carmen

strained in his movement, making his final explosive solo of extreme shapes and portions seem all the more violently desperate.

Escamillo is a rock star. He strikes rock-star postures, erupts on to stage amid a hail of screams, and in Christopher

Giles's interpretation needed more nerve to convince us of his glamour. Escamillo brings with him a taped electric-band version of his Bizet music which might have the composer spinning in his grave, but I thought it dramatically effective. The rest of the score, though, arranged by John Longstaff for small orchestra and conducted by John Pryce-Jones, sounded under-powered.

No such reticence from the cast, who take to contemporary dance as if they had never seen a tutu in their lives. Lex Brotherton's sets, locating most of the action around the cigarette factory and in a bar, are an important component, spare yet atmospheric. So is the story-telling, which unfolds in three lean and trenchant acts.

NADINE MEISSNER

Julie Walters Ciaran Hinds Nuala O'Neill Ciaran McMenamin

Titanic Town

★★★★
"JULIE WALTERS GIVES HER ALL IN A STIRRING, STARTLING DRAMA"

★★★★
"GLORIOUS"
★★★★
"PERFECT"



A film by Roger Michell

Starts Tomorrow ABC

FILM

Psychological warfare

WHEN A film-maker disappears after tantalising the world with glimpses of an extraordinary talent, your curiosity is naturally piqued. When that film-maker re-emerges with his first movie in 20 years, curiosity by this time has become mingled with dread. Can the comeback match the pressure of expectation, or will genius have withered through neglect? In the case of Terrence Malick, whose reputation rests on two landmark movies, *Badlands* (1973) and *Days of Heaven* (1978), the stakes are as high as they come; you don't hope for a comeback – you hope for a world event.

The Thin Red Line is not that event. I emerged from it dazed and, days later, I'm still trying to gauge its impact. On the one hand it's profoundly strange and luminously beautiful; on the other, it's rambling, incoherent, perverse and defiantly insular. It is, unmistakably, the work of Terrence Malick, so let's be thankful for that.

Based on the novel by James Jones, it concerns an army rifle company that fights its way to a key victory over Japanese forces at Guadalcanal. But call it a movie about the Second World War and you'd be only half right. This is a long way from the visceral charge and moral purpose of *Saving Private Ryan*. Just compare the opening of Spielberg's film – a roaring maelstrom of gunfire and blood – with the sun-dappled fugue that begins *The Thin Red Line*. Two soldiers, who've gone AWOL from their company, sport with

THE BIG PICTURE



ANTHONY QUINN

THE THIN RED LINE (15)
DIRECTOR: TERENCE MALICK
STARRING: SEAN PENN,
JIM CAVIEZEL, BEN CHAPLIN,
NICK NOLTE, ELIAS KOTÉAS
170 MINS

Melanesian natives amid paradisaic serenity; a pair of brilliantly coloured parrots stare beakily ahead, children swim beneath an aquamarine sea. We wait.

And we wait. Even when the company eventually disembarks on shore, the soldiers do not find a place rimmed with snipers or barbed wire; they have acres of jungle to hack through before they get a glimpse of the enemy. It's a full three-quarters-of-an-hour before a shot is fired, during which time Malick introduces us, obliquely and unsatisfactorily, to his cast of soldiers. Some senior officers are recog-

nisable – Woody Harrelson, Sean Penn and John Savage – other ranks less so; the ones who make an early impression are Privates Bell (Ben Chaplin), Doll (Dash Mihok) and Witt (Jim Caviezel), whose faces you tend to seek out in the yawning absence of a centre. The film keeps proposing a major character before pulling away to focus on something else, leaving us none the wiser as to who the film is about. Just when you've decided it's a battle of wills between a warhorse lieutenant colonel (Nick Nolte) and a self-doubting captain (Elias Koteas) who refuses to sacrifice his men, along comes another officer (John Cusack) to dominate the film for the next 20 minutes before disappearing altogether. The movie is bookended by a pair of celebrity cameos – John Travolta and George Clooney – to no discernible purpose whatsoever. According to reports from the set, Malick shot so much film that he made himself an Everest to edit: major parts were whittled down to minor, or else cut completely. A lack of focus is everywhere felt.

Perhaps wise to the confusion, Malick has taken recourse to voice-overs, a device he also used in *Badlands* and *Days of Heaven*. Yet where the voice-over is traditionally deployed (and deplored) as a short cut to explanation and clarity, here it's an occasion for spacey, philosophical musings: "Love – where did it come from? Who lit this flame for us?" "If I don't meet you in this world, let me feel the lack" (a

line that sounds more like Jimi Hendrix than James Jones). Nothing as prosaic as information is ever vouchsafed us. What's more, excepting Witt's Kentucky drawl, it's never certain which soldier's voice we're listening to. This could be Malick's intention, for despite their individual anonymity these voices do have an amazing cumulative power.

The film doesn't shrink from portraying the chaotic horror of combat, yet it's more interested in the numbness and fear and exhaustion of the minds who have to endure it; what else for a man to do but "make an island for himself"? In this regard, Ben Chaplin is granted the privilege of flashbacks to happier days back home with his wife, a mental refuge that somehow allows him to risk his life as the company inches its way towards the enemy's hilltop redoubt.

Triumphalism plays no part in this account. Even when the American troops seize control of an enemy village, Malick's camera lingers on the traumatised faces of the Japanese, emaciated and cowering piteously in bunkers, or howling in anguish as they cradle their dead. "This evil... what root did it grow from?" muses an inner voice. Thus we come to understand the point of the film's long passages of calm, the painterly shots of birds and wildlife – all that waiting. *The Thin Red Line* is only incidentally a story of an American-Japanese conflict; it's really an inquiry into



Adrien Brody, Woody Harrelson and Sean Penn

what men must kill in themselves when they kill one another. The flipside of this high-minded sensibility is a lofty narrative vagueness. Hardly any of the scenes link up or comment on one other. As in *Ryan*, there is a heroic instance of self-sacrifice, yet the strategic worth of that sacrifice is not made clear. It's infuriatingly characteristic of the way Malick's poetic style gestures at drama yet seldom deigns to immerse itself in the particulars.

It's hard to know how the movie will survive in the memory beyond a cluster of striking images – a flock of blood on a blade of grass, late-afternoon sunlight over a hill, the scenes of native innocence in the

prologue – and a performance of mysterious grace from the newcomer Jim Caviezel. Malick is entranced by the human face, and Caviezel fully repays the attention; his tenderness and self-possession haunt the film long before it's finished. With its woozy poetic voice-overs and underdeveloped characters, *The Thin Red Line* is no crowd-pleaser; you can see why it will be damned by some as pretentious and perplexing. Yet I couldn't help admiring it, for its ambition, for its troubling, hypnotic spell and, ultimately, for its refusal to play the Hollywood game. Terrence Malick has made something no one else has ever dared: an introspective war movie.

ALSO SHOWING

YOU'VE GOT MAIL NORA EPHRON (PG) ■ TITANIC TOWN ROGER MITCHELL (15)
PAINTED ANGELS JON SANDERS (15) ■ PRACTICAL MAGIC JAMIE BLANKS (18)

I WOULD have taken bets before watching *You've Got Mail* that Meg Ryan would be seen at some point wearing bed-socks. The movie, written and directed by Nora Ephron, is another soft-centred homage to her cuteness, I'm afraid. She plays Kathleen Kelly, a cute New Yorker with a cute hairdo who, unbeknownst to her boyfriend (Greg Kinnear), has been making friends on the Internet with Joe Fox (Tom Hanks), who in turn has kept it from his girlfriend (Parker Posey). Why they have to keep their e-mail habit under wraps is a mystery, since all they chat about is bagels and coffee and how much they love Manhattan. You know, cute stuff.

The twist is that Kathleen and Joe, who correspond pseudonymously as Shopgirl and NY152, are at daggers drawn in real life. He's a corporate nasty whose new book supersedes her threatening her cosy little bookshop with extinction. (It's called *The Shop Around the Corner*, a nod to the Lubitsch comedy on which Ephron's film is based.) So follows a long, laboured duel between them and their literary tastes. She takes *Pride and Prejudice* as her sacred text, he quotes approvingly from *The Godfather*, and they both – groan – discover a different side to themselves.

Ephron can turn a snappy line when the occasion demands, but she's no great shakes as a director; most of the time we seem merely to be watching Hanks and Ryan frown over their laptops. The solving of the romantic complications is perfunctory to the point of offensiveness – Kathleen's break-up scene with her boyfriend is barely recognisable as human interaction. As with Ephron's last big hit,



Julie Walters in Roger Mitchell's 'Titanic Town'

Sleepless in Seattle, enjoyment largely depends on your goodwill towards its two stars. Click for cyberdump.

When a film about Ireland features a rendering of "Danny Boy" within the first five minutes, you're inclined to fear the worst. Yet Roger Mitchell's *Titanic Town* turns out to be an admirably gritty account of a Belfast family in the Troubles, circa 1972.

Julie Walters plays Bernie McPhelimy, a housewife whose conscience is awakened when she sees her best friend gunned down on the street. Armed with righteous indignation and little else, she begins an outspoken campaign for peace that sets her at odds with the IRA, her neighbours and, most poignantly, her own family. Walters, whose playing I've always found too broad, is terrific here, a Valium-popping worrywart who nevertheless finds courage from somewhere to face death threats and the scorn of her nearest and dearest (Nuala O'Neill makes a fine debut as her aggrieved teenage daughter). The dowdiness of the era is convincingly captured, while a superb acoustic score by John Martyn furnishes the appropriate gradations of light and shade.

Painted Angels is a kind of anti-Western, recounting the little-known story of young women who, in their efforts to escape destitution, fetched up on the frontier with only their bodies to sell. Set in a grim little boom town during the 1870s, the film focuses upon a quintet of working girls whose labours are overseen by a watchful madam (Brenda Fricker).

The hardship of their lives is explicitly detailed, be it the prospect of a night shift with a queue of filthy locals, the humiliation of amateur theatricals to impress a visiting bigwig, or the ever-present threat of violence and disease. Jon Sanders' feature debut is a cheerless affair, rendered no easier by its funeral pace and drab palette of duns and greys. Not a fun night out, but its careworn integrity commands respect.

You might have hoped that *Scream* and its sequel had dealt a mortal knife-wound to the teen slasher movie. No chance: here comes *Urban Legend*, an almost insultingly glib rehearsal of horror-flick tropes. There's a killer on campus – again – whose signature is dispatching his victims after the fashion of an urban myth. That you may fail to recognise any mythic overtones is beside the point; all the movie demands is that you jump from your seat as one gruesome death follows another. The debut director Jamie Blanks – there's a promising name – seems to be aiming for a world record number of genre clichés in a single feature, an accolade I'd hand over on condition that he never makes a sequel. AQ

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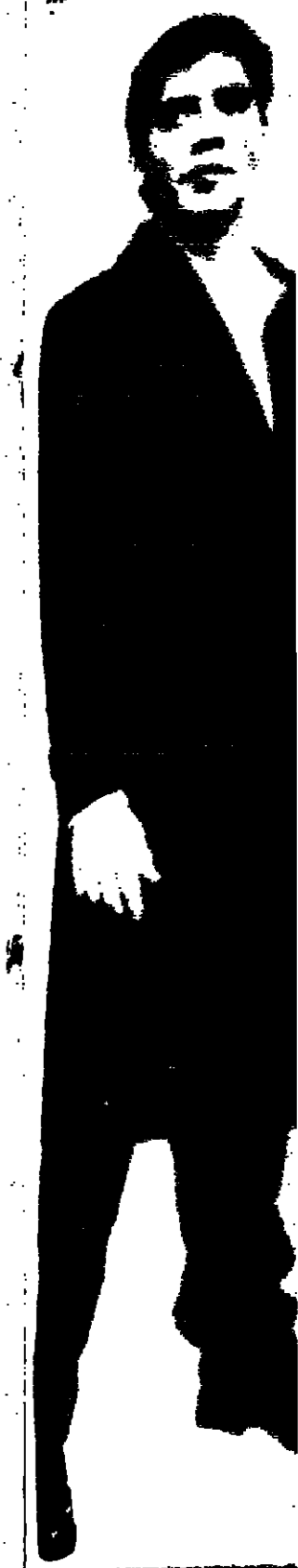
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More beefcake, sir?

No thanks, says Javier Bardem. I'm ready for something just a little more serious. By Liese Spencer



MOUTH TO Mouth, Golden Balls, *Live Flesh*: they sound like movies you might find on the shelves of a Sobo sex shop. In fact, they're all titles from the testosterone-charged filmography of the Spanish actor Javier Bardem, art house stud and crotch-grabbing icon of ironic, post-Franco machismo. "Me, a sex symbol?" Bardem laughs. "The only sex symbol in Spain is Antonio Banderas. When I meet girls they just ask whether I know him. I'm jealous of Antonio."

Such protestations are charming, but not all together based on fact. In his native country the 29-year-old is already big enough to have stopped giving interviews.

But, visiting London to pick up an award for his performance as a paraplegic policeman in Pedro Almodóvar's *Live Flesh*, Bardem has found time to plug his latest movie, *Perdita Durango*, a bizarre black comedy, is his first English language film, and Bardem clearly hopes that it will help boost his career on to the international level of his world-famous compatriot.

Born into a show business dynasty (his grandparents were actors, his uncle was the celebrated film-maker Juan Antonio Bardem) Javier decided not to enter the family business after being forced to witness, as a child, his mother's gut-wrenching stage fright. Doing casual jobs as a waiter, a security man, a cartoonist and a stripper, he successfully dodged his vocation for several years, until he had a chance encounter with the director Bigas Luna.

"I went with my sister to her audition but

he cast me instead," he recalls apologetically. "She was very angry, but after making the film I realised that acting was the only thing for me to do."

The film was *Jamón Jamón*, a wildly overblown sex comedy that took the stark landscape and bloody passion of Federico García Lorca's tragedies and remade them as brutal farce. As Luna's lover-hero, Bardem ate a diet of raw meat and garlic, indulged in a spot of naked bullfighting, modelled underwear, and chubbed his rival to death with a leg of ham. Best of all, he did it straight. Bulging with muscle and oozing raw sensuality, Bardem didn't have to send

'Cinema promotes national stereotypes - Banderas is still doing the Latin lover thing'

up outmoded sexual stereotypes; he was one. A male Jane Russell. A walking satire.

Since then, Bardem's blunt profile - and his hunch charisma - have graced a series of similarly kitsch melodramas. Now, in *Perdita Durango* he's Romeo Dolorosa, a good-looking Mexican devil who kidnaps a pair of blonde American kids to sacrifice them in a black magic ritual.

There's no question these days whether Bardem can do macho. The question is can he do anything else?

"It was the only thing they would give me," he sighs. "Critics, actors and audiences in Spain know I can do anything now, but it may take longer elsewhere because foreign audiences have only seen the tough guy roles."

Even then, Bardem admits he may not be able to have his beefcake and eat it, to shake off the sex symbol tag and get serious.

"These characters are not a real reflection of the Spanish male," he says, "but cinema promotes national stereotypes. Look at Banderas - he's in Hollywood but he's still doing the Latin lover thing."

For his part, Bardem aspires to the social realist. "Ken Loach is my favourite director, but films like his don't get made much in Spain," he points out. While Almodóvar has never exactly plunged his hands into the kitchen sink, *Live Flesh* was one of his least stylised pictures and Bardem clearly relished the chance to play a character with more emotional depth.

"I was pleased with my performance," he says, "because the people in wheelchairs taught me well. They taught me how to think, how to move - everything. Those people live with a passion that is amazing." Working with Almodóvar, however, was "not much fun". Describing the director's working methods, Bardem cracks an imaginary whip. "He's a perfectionist; he made me repeat one scene 38 times."

The actor's next project promises to continue his journey from phallic fantasy to reality. The film, which is about the Shining Path in Peru, will be directed by Hollywood veteran John Malkovich.

"I was nervous and shaking when I auditioned," remembers Bardem. "I completely forgot my English in front of this actor I really admire. When he was reading the other character I'd think, 'wow, John Malkovich is reading for me', and then I'd go and forget to read my line again. Afterwards he said, 'OK, I think you are the character and I can't believe that you did it so badly', so he gave me another 13 or 14 chances to actually get it right."

So is Bardem about to fight Banderas for the role of swarthy Hollywood love interest, or will he find success on his own terms? "To be compared to Banderas is an honour, because he's done a lot for Spanish movies," says Bardem, "but his career and what I want from my work are not the same. He's a star, a celebrity. I'd hate all that."

For now, Bardem is happy to bide his time, watching Loach and waiting for Malkovich. Oh, and he's just finished shooting another movie with Manuel Gómez Pereira. Its title? *Between Your Legs*.



Bardem (left and above): Working with Almodóvar was 'not much fun'

Please excuse my English

Sacré bleu! Jean-Jacques Beineix's new film is in English. Linguistic treachery, surely. By Claire Soares

"I'M AFRAID the decadent frogs are starting to speak English," said Jean-Jacques Beineix, the French director best known for his film *Betty Blue*. The mock apology refers to his latest project, *Deal of the Millennium*, a Paris-set romantic vampire comedy, adapted from Mark Behm's novel *The Ice Maiden*, which is to be filmed in English.

Beineix, 52, is one of a number of eminent French directors who seem to be abandoning their native language. Last month Patrice Chéreau (*La Reine Margot*) started filming his adaptation of Hanif Kureishi's novel *Intimacy*. In November, Michel Blanc began shooting *The Wrong Blond*. Both films are on location in Britain and are scripted in English.

So why the sudden surge in French-produced, English-language films? Chéreau, for one, insists that there is no hidden commercial motive. "The fact that my film will be made in England is not an indication of anything other than the fact that I like Kureishi's novel, which is based in London," he said recently, explaining: "Transposing an English novel into a French context would not work."

Beineix is more frank. "It is for commercial reasons, let's be clear. English is becoming the universal language, and the pressures of the networks and



Beineix: 'I'm doing this for commercial reasons, let's be clear. English is becoming the universal language'

the international distributors mean that if you make a movie costing more than \$20m (£12.4m), the obligation of the market is to make it in English. "But at the same time it is a pleasure," he added. "I was 14 years old the first time I went to England, and I have never stopped speaking English since. I enjoy going to London as much as possible now." He is looking forward to his retrospective, which starts today at the Cinema Lumière in London. From 25 to 28 February, all of Beineix's films, shorts and

documentaries, spanning a 20-year period, will be shown. These are all in French. By making his next movie in English, Beineix feels that he can strengthen his attempt to "challenge the incredible and continuous wave of American products that are unloaded by the American industry without resistance". Chéreau also admitted to wanting to make a "more resilient film" to see if, by changing languages, his work could stand up to the test of the international market. Through English, Beineix

feels he will be able to "provide creativity and culture to a young audience". "I want to fight for humanism, for differences between cultures, and defend them from the industrial approach of cinema." For him, it's a battle between the cultural diversity of Europe and the Hollywood production line.

Is there not an inherent contradiction in Beineix's argument? Is he not forsaking one of the most striking cultural differences - the French language? "It would be a contradiction, if I was abandoning my style, my freedom of speech and my identity," he said. By retaining these, in English, he feels *Deal of the Millennium* will be a "compromise to reach more people".

To attract a wider audience he is recruiting a multinational cast. The Frenchman Jean Reno is one of the confirmed actors, and Beineix is also hoping that he can entice the English actor Jason Flemyng.

Does this new trend among French directors spell danger? If these films are commercially lucrative, other directors may follow suit, and the French film as we know it may die out. Beineix disagrees: "Because it is a mother tongue, you will always have people willing to make films in French - as long as the language is living these are false problems."

The directors argue for a "European" vision of cinema.

Chéreau sees *Intimacy* as neither French nor English. "It is more a question of France and England joining forces and resources - I prefer the term 'European'," Beineix agrees. "Europeans are making a big mistake just thinking in terms of French, German, English."

"My film should be a melting-pot of all things European." Can such a melting-pot constitute a European cinematic identity? We'll have to wait and see.

Jean-Jacques Beineix's retrospective will take place at the Cinema Lumière in London from 25 to 28 February. Tel: 0171-338 2144/2146

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Learning on the job

Contrary to received wisdom, working through college can be beneficial. By Kate Hilpern

So you've got two big essays to complete by next week and, because your student loan has just run out, you've also got to work extra shifts at the local pub. Sounds familiar? Even if you've graduated, it's probably a reality that seems to have existed only yesterday. Indeed, new research shows that three times as many students underwrite the cost of their studies by taking part-time employment as did so a decade ago - a number that has grown by 10 per cent in the last year alone.

But the good news for today's graduate is that there is a radical change of attitude. Instead of the conventional condemnation of paid employment in term-time as being damaging to studies, graduate recruiters - as well as educational and student union leaders - are finally recognising its huge advantages.

"Commercial acumen and an awareness of the world of work are both attributes that have been traditionally lacking in graduates, who have previously been caught up in academia," explains Emma Bulley, a manager at Metamorphose International, a graduate recruitment and training organisation. "With increasing exposure to financial pressures, students are becoming far more astute and business-minded, and this can only be beneficial."

According to research by Incomes Data Services, Pizza Hut has the highest percentage of students in its workforce, accounting for about 60 per cent of employees. If such a student approaches Bulley, she claims that the experience speaks volumes to her: "I immediately know that the graduate has expertise in time management and customer service, dealing with finances and coping in an extremely pressured environment."

Employment in supermarkets can result in similar skills, she adds, which is no bad thing when the Kwik Save supermarket chain employs 8,330 students out of a workforce of 20,600, while about 35 per cent of staff at Waitrose are students. At Sainsbury,



Ric Sandifer stacked shelves before becoming a management trainee at Tesco. Chris Jones

Tesco and Asda, personnel officers agree that student labour has become "structural" rather than "casual", and at Sainsbury's some students are even given supervisory roles. "Working in these service industries offers students the opportunity to gain abilities which, let's face it, the lecture theatre simply can't," says Bulley.

The problem is, says Cary Cooper, professor of organisational psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, that many graduates don't even include this experience on their CVs. "They believe that if they do so it will appear that they didn't take their studies seriously, and that it will belittle their real cap-

abilities. It's high time they realised that, often, the opposite is true. "With students now paying fees and an increase in modular degrees that do not have to be completed within a limited time, we are becoming increasingly like America, where most students have to work part-time. But rather than being considered in a negative light in the US, it's well accepted that this makes graduates more entrepreneurial and therefore more marketable."

Andrew Pakes, president of the National Union of Students, adds that a US study reveals that spending up to 15 hours a week at work could be beneficial. "Many school-leavers won't have spent time at work and they need to learn about

working alongside other people, handling the public and management culture," he says. But, he adds, this should not be an invitation for companies to exploit the student workforce. In fact, the union is campaigning for employers to provide better-quality jobs with training - as well as demanding that students be covered by the minimum wage, which they feel should be £4.60 an hour. (From 1 April, 18-to-21-year-olds will earn £3 an hour; over-21s will be entitled to £3.60 an hour.)

For many students, working during term-time has the added bonus of assisting in mapping out career paths. Tesco found that of the graduates who applied for one of its training schemes last year, a large

proportion had developed an interest in retailing while working in stores as students. "I stacked shelves while I was doing my PhD at Reading University," says Ric Sandifer. "I enjoyed the work and the people so much that I kept going with it, and wound up applying for the graduate recruitment scheme."

Ellen Matthews, on the other hand, thought that advertising was for her, but got a couple of secretarial jobs within the industry just to make sure. "As soon as I saw just how cut-throat it was, I realised it wasn't for me. I got a second job to be sure it wasn't just the company I'd despised - it wasn't. So I had to rethink my whole career. At first, I felt completely heartbroken, but that soon changed to relief that I had made this discovery before graduating."

According to its latest Annual Graduate Review, more than 70 per cent of London graduates return to work in their home area. Dr Mark Parkinson, an occupational psychologist, predicts that the future will see students not even leaving their home towns to study, let alone to gain employment.

"What this means is that students' lives are becoming more cocooned and safe than ever," says Sara Welsh, a graduate careers adviser. "They risk leaving university with relatively little experience of communication with strangers - and therefore tend to lack the independence and confidence that graduates of the past took for granted. Working while studying is one of the few ways they can make up for this."

But if you haven't worked alongside your studies, fear not. "Just make sure you get all the jobs you can while waiting for your big break," advises Welsh. "Do voluntary work as well as paid work, and be prepared to work evenings. Added to your experience of dealing with the public will be proof that you're prepared to put in extra hours at unsociable times and help out even if there's no extra money involved. Above all, you'll come to see how lower-status jobs can be fundamental in reaching your higher-status ambitions."

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Address: Headquarters are at 41 Lothbury in the heart of London, with 2,500 offices throughout the UK.

Ambience: "There is an emphasis on target-driven teamwork and commitment," remarks a spokesperson. The headquarters host the NatWest art gallery, featuring artists such as Damien Hirst - which provides a slightly pretentious atmosphere.

Vital statistics: The group's 1998 half-year profit before tax was £967m, an increase of 49 per cent on 1997. Its total assets are £180bn and the group has 6.5 million personal customers and nearly 1 million business customers. There are about 70,000 employees working in a variety of activities including commercial banking, retail financial services, private banking and foreign exchange.

Lifestyle: For graduate entrants, the motto tends to be "work hard, play hard". A spokesperson adds: "There's lots of support for those who need it - and for those that can't get enough of them, there are always more challenges."

Easy to get into? NatWest recruits approximately 180 of the 1,000 annual graduate applicants on to formal schemes. The qualifications that a graduate is likely to

need differ according to the discipline.

Glittering alumni: Simon Lewis, communications director at Buckingham Palace.

Pay: "Very much down to the scheme on which the entrant joins," said a spokesperson, who wouldn't even give a hint of the salary you might expect.

Training: Induction training for GMIP (Graduate Management Induction Program) takes place at Heythrop Park - NatWest's learning centre. This scheme is for graduates who aspire to general management and



want experience across different businesses within the group. For other schemes, Heythrop Park is used alongside local training centres and the branches themselves. The length of training varies enormously according to individual schemes. (For those wanting to go into international private banking, Coutts & Co offers a training programme specifically for graduates.)

Facilities: Sports and social committees exist in most regions. Most of the larger offices have a canteen and a staff room.

Who's the boss? Derek Wanless, who, incidentally, joined the company fresh out of university.

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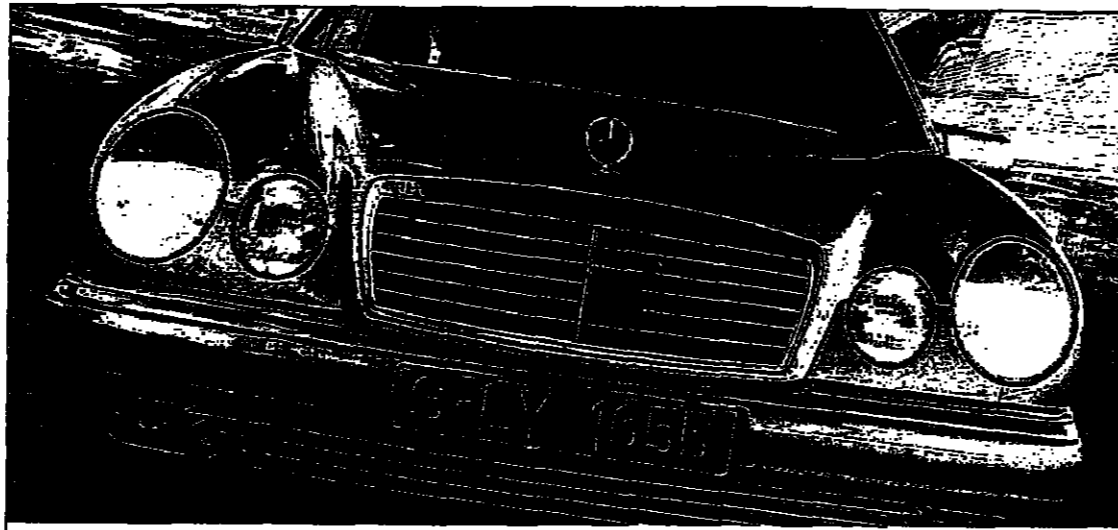
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SENIOR CONSULTATION OFFICER

Salary up to £23,205 incl. London Weighting

CONSULTATION OFFICER

Salary up to £20,475 incl. London Weighting

Croydon Housing Department is a customer-focused organisation with a dedication to quality, equality and efficiency in service delivery to a multi-racial community.

We currently have the above 2 vacancies within the Programme Works Section which deals with major investment projects for the Housing Department.

For both positions we are looking for people who can consult with residents/leaseholder groups on the detail of proposed programmes and take responsibility for special projects.

For the post of Senior Consultation Officer, your main duties and responsibilities will include:

- Implementing the tenant consultation process for programmed works schemes
- The ability to develop new ways to meet the needs of our service users.

For the post of Consultation Officer, your main duties and responsibilities will include:

- arranging consultation with residents/leaseholders in accordance with current policies.

For both positions you will need:

- experience of working with tenants in an organisation providing social housing
- ability to work outside normal office hours.

Croydon is working towards equality in employment and service delivery and welcomes applications from all people representative of our diverse communities.

If you think that you have the skills and experience for this post, please contact: Housing Personnel and Training section for an information pack and application form on 0181-793 6585 (9-5pm) or email: hr@crodon.gov.uk. Details may also be collected from the Public Information Desk on the ground floor of Tabor House, Park Lane, Croydon CR9 1DT.

Closing date for Housing posts is Friday, 5th March.

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I require two well educated individuals (23-30) who want to be trained to fill management positions within a successful and expanding private company. The career path will reward those who accept responsibility with the job satisfaction and financial gain they deserve. CALL DAVID WHEATLEY 0171 240 9627

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A Marketing Professional with at least 5 years' experience is required to develop and co-ordinate the marketing for a leading Financial Information provider. You will work closely with Marketing Managers across individual business units to proactively develop a marketing strategy to project the company to the financial markets community.

Applicants must have proven experience of launching a brand within a Financial Information/Publishing environment as well as in web development and design. You must also possess a relevant degree-level qualification and have experience of internet related marketing. Excellent communication and IT skills are also required.

Applicants should apply with full CV and covering letter, clearly stating salary expectation to PO Box 13015, Independent Classified, 19th Floor, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL.

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To advertise in this section

please call the FAST TRACK team

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North / North West London

Wimpey Homes is expanding its Employment and Training initiative which helps long-term unemployed people into work, and requires a

Systems Co-ordinator

£19 - £22k

The postholder will undertake a wide range of duties, extending from the development of training procedures, through financial data manipulation, to front-line client advice and support.

Applicants need to have a degree qualification, previous experience of devising and operating procedures, financial management and client liaison, and be computer literate. Excellent communication skills and the ability to work thoroughly and meticulously without supervision are essential requirements.

For an application pack please contact: Linda Stenberg, Administration Assistant, Stadium Training Centre, Units 40-43, Stadium Business Centre, North End Road, Wembley, Middx HA9 0AT.

Telephone: 0181 903 3055 Fax: 0181 903 1270.

Closing date for completed applications: 25 March 1999.

This post is funded under Single Regeneration Budget and other grant regimes and is subject to funding continuation.

This initiative serves multi-racial communities. Applications are welcome from all sections of the community.

Working towards equality in employment

CASE REVIEW MANAGERS

BIRMINGHAM

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The Criminal Cases Review Commission was established with the sole purpose of investigating suspected miscarriages of criminal justice. This drives all that we do.

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Responsibility for investigating cases falls on the shoulders of a select team of Case Review Managers; people who understand the law and the criminal justice system. They combine a sharp and analytical mind with tenacity and rigorous investigative skills in a practical and team oriented environment. Moreover, they are interested in justice and not just making a "case", even though the ability to communicate views, findings and recommendations clearly and persuasively, both orally and in writing is paramount.

Whilst not necessarily a trained lawyer, you must have experience of handling complex cases and possess a working knowledge of the criminal justice system. This may represent a change in direction for you, but for the right individual will provide demanding, rewarding and thought provoking work, the implications of which reverberate soundly on many different levels.

So, if you are looking to do real justice to your skills and want the opportunity to develop them even further, get in touch.

For an information pack and details of how to apply, call Karen Tait on 0121 633 1821 or E-mail her with your name, address and telephone number on info@ccrc.gov.uk

Closing date for the receipt of completed applications is Tuesday 9th March, 1999. Previous applicants need not apply.

These positions will initially be made on the basis of three-year contract, with the possibility of subsequent renewal.

Criminal Cases Review Commission
The CCRC is an equal opportunities employer

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Sales

Wednesday
Finance, Legal,
Secretarial

Thursday
Education, Graduate

Sunday
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Call Tom Nelson on 0171 323 4469 or Andy Gordon 0171 323 4564

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Tickets are £95 including lunch.

For further information or to book your place call Jane Stephenson on Freephone 0800 9176534

Or e-mail janejsa@indigo.ie

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For an informal discussion please contact Ann Gray, Director of Nursing on (01691) 404417.

For application forms and job description contact Human Resources Department, The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7AG. Tel: (01691) 404424.

Closing date: 4th March, 1999.

Interviews: Week commencing 15th March, 1999.

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MEDICAL OFFICER

Hassockfield Secure Training Centre (STC) will open in September 1999 and provide a secure, caring and constructive environment for forty trainees, 12-15 year old boys and girls.

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For an informal discussion please contact Mr Ian Macdonald, Director of Health & Medical Services, Premier Prison Services Ltd 01344 888865. For an application form contact: The Personnel Department, Premier Training Services Ltd, PO Box 427, Dorchester, Dorset. Telephone 01302 763289. Quoting Ref: HASS/MLO. Closing date for applications 3rd March 1999.



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NEW FILMS

AFFLICTION (15)

Director: Paul Schrader
Starring: Nick Nolte, James Coburn, Sissy Spacek, Willem Dafoe
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Chelsea Cinema, Remor

HOLY MAN (PG)

Director: Stephen Herek
Starring: Eddie Murphy, Jeff Goldblum
Redemption time! Jeff Goldblum plays Ricky, a scuzzball executive on a home-shopping channel. Eddie Murphy is G, a spiritual wanderer with open-toed sandals and an idiot-savant sliver. G and Ricky hook up. Fearful for his job, Ricky uses G as a frontman on the shopping show and sales go through the roof. G, in turn, teaches Ricky a few soulful lessons; you know, about life and stuff. *Holy Man* is a film of bits and pieces. Parts of it (the satirical swipes at trash TV, for instance) are very funny, while Murphy and the wired, neurotic Goldblum in particular, both do well in fleshing out what are essentially one-dimensional, archetypal roles. The trouble is, the film never quite hangs together. It skips around trying to find the right tone; starts out as an attack on media-land, then pulls its punches. It runs worryingly out of steam. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18)

Director: David Kane
Starring: Douglas Henshall, Kathy Burke, Jennifer Ehle, Ian Hart, Emily Wool, Catherine McCormack
A cast of Britain's finest (Kathy Burke, Ian Hart, Douglas Henshall et al) weave to and fro through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance. The plot is airy and simple: six disparate middle-aged types criss-cross each other over a period of three years; their bungled bed-hopping and snatched moments of human contact scored to a voguish pop soundtrack (Garbage, Morcheeba, Mercury Rev). Hart excels as a nerdy outcast, Burke as a nurturing, rough-diamond pub singer. All are well served by Kane's generally witty and well-observed screenplay. It's just that *This Year's Love* doesn't quite know when to quit, cranking what might have been a sublime one-hour teleplay into double its natural length. Still, that's modern romance for you. You can't fit it into tidy little boxes. West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

This computer-animated trifle is surely the most unlikely Woody Allen movie we will ever see. The nerd icon allegedly re-wrote the bulk of his dialogue to provide the voice of worker-ant Z who breaks out from his totalitarian rut when he falls in with Princess Bala (Sharon Stone). West End: Virgin Trocadero, Repertory: Prince Charles. And local cinemas

A BUG'S LIFE (U)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

BULWORTH (18)

Warren Beatty's new satire is a blast: crude and condescending on occasion, yet genuinely audacious and committed. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART (PG)

So how bad is *Don't Go Breaking My Heart*? Well, first off, it wastes the skills of ER's Anthony Edwards as a Yankee sports therapist in Blighty. Secondly, it overplays the charms of Jenny Seagrove as the widowed mum he gets together with. This arthritic weepie wheezes on towards a finale so predictable that you'd have to be dead not to see it coming. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's film is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage. And local cinemas

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

HIDEOUS KINKY (15)

Through the teasing backdrop of 1970s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum, her two daughters (Bella Riza, Carrie Mullin) unwillingly in tow. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Curzon Minima, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's biopic of the Du Pre sisters. West End: Curzon Soho, Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15)

Essentially this is *Shirley Valentine* with an Afro-American spin, but Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the tourist-brochure visuals. With Whoopi Goldberg. West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

I THINK I DO (15)

An excuse for reunions, for an ensemble cast, for the tensions of etiquette against emotion. Writer-director Brian Sloan ticks all the right boxes during this spry baby-boomer outing and yet it's too hyperactive and ingratiating for its own good. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Virgin Fulham Road

JACK FROST (PG)

Out-of-season Yuletide tale. Michael Keaton plays a self-obsessed blues-man who dies and gets reincarnated as a snowman. *The Full Monty*'s Mark Addy co-stars as his best mate. They meet, they pass, and formula fun is had by all. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) perfects strident impersonations of Shirley Bassey and Judy Garland. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks' vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push *Little Voice* through to the final curtain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

LIVING OUT LOUD (15)

Living Out Loud spins a sweet saga of female liberation, bolstered by a terrific performance from Holly Hunter as the lonesome divorcee drifting into an is-it-or-isn't-it friendship with Danny DeVito's bereaved lift operator. West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MADLINE (U)

All aboard for storybook 1950s Paris. That gingerbread house on the corner is the boarding house attended by nine-year-old Madeline (Gifty Jones). That hatchet-faced woman on front is the strict instructor (Frances McDormand). That car going by is a Citroën. You get the picture. This overwrought rendering of Ludwig Bemmelman's kids' stories looks a shade one-dimensional; all artistry and no art. West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

MY GIANT (PG)

Billy Crystal plods his way through Michael "Heathers" Lehmann's Lilliputian comedy about a disreputable Hollywood agent who gets a few life lessons when he runs into a saintly giant (George Mureaux) in Romania. Expect size jokes in the middle and glib morals at the end. Local: Harrow Warner Village

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue; re-heating its 1961 heart-warmer into a spry caper. Starring Dennis Quaid and Natasha Richardson. Local cinemas

PECKER (18)

Trash auteur John Waters swerves into sunnier streets with Pecker, his fluffily satirical tale of an amateur Baltimore photographer adopted as a fly-on-the-wall artist by the New York elite. West End: Metro

PI (PG) (15)

What sustains this film is the pure ingenuity of its central conceit, its ongoing "mathematics is the language of nature" mantra and louché too-cool-for-school demeanour. It all adds up. West End: ABC Panton Street, Clapham Picture House

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS (18)

Another troubling X-ray of American mores from *In the Company of Men* director Neil LaBute. *Your Friends and Neighbors* widens its focus a little, yet in all other respects this looks like a carbon copy of LaBute's debut. There are the same stage-bound confines, the same structured misanthropy, the same dense weave of dialogue. Two features in and LaBute has chewed this bone to bits already. West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket. And local cinemas

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Affliction (15)
Paul Schrader's magnificently bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad (James Coburn).

Life is Beautiful (La Vita e Bella) (PG)
Roberto Benigni directs and stars in this tragicomic fable (right) about an Italian Jew who tries to shield his boy from the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp by pretending that the brutal regime is an elaborate game.

Shakespeare in Love (15)
This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

A Bug's Life (U)
Less sophisticated and more child-friendly than *Antz*, this animated feature spins another enjoyable yarn about an ant colony and its battle to survive. Kevin Spacey provides the voice of the chief grasshopper.

The Opposite of Sex (18)
Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Deede, who causes all kinds of havoc when she moves in with her half-brother (Martin Donovan).

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Oklahoma! (Lyceum Theatre, London)
Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Nunn's glorious production of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 Jun

Copenhagen (Duchess Theatre, London)
Michael Fray's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. To 7 Aug

Toast (Royal Court at The Ambassador's, London)
So you thought that the comic fascination of a mass-production hokier in 1970s Hull was somewhat limited? Richard Bean's delightfully funny play proves you wrong. To 6 Mar

The Winter's Tale (RSC, Stratford)
An amazingly rich and complex performance from Anthony Sher in Gregory Doran's Romanov-style production (right). In rep to 4 Mar

The Tempest (West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds)
Ian McKellen gives a low-key performance as a Prospero who presides over an island grimly reimagined as a correctional facility. To 27 Feb

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Monet in the 20th Century (Royal Academy)
He lived until 1926. The gardens and lily ponds at Giverny dissolve into elemental visions: fiery lights, haze, liquid reflections, voids and depths. The strange last works of Impressionism. To 18 Apr

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)
Some of the most intense portraiture ever. Women: exquisite *Madame de M...* of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. To 25 Apr

Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery)
Photographs 1994-98: Huge, wide-angle, high-contrast, micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our everyday world. To 7 Mar

Oppé Watercolour Collection (Whitworth Gallery, Manchester)
Classic and still fresh 18th- and 19th-century British watercolours, including works by Alexander Cozens, John Sell Cotman, Constable, and Francis Towne. To 5 Apr

Disasters of War (Wolverhampton Art Gallery)
"I saw this" - three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot, Goya and Otto Dix. Visions from the blackest of times (right). To 20 Mar

TOM LITBROCK

CINEMA WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET

(0870-902 0404) @ Piccadilly
Elizabeth 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm
Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm
My Name is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm @ (P) 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) @ Piccadilly
Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
There's Something About Mary 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0870-902 0402) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
Affliction 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
I Think I Do 1.40pm, 4.05pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870-902 0403) @ Leicester Square/Baker Street
Square Buffalo 6.10pm, 8.40pm
La Classe de Neige 4.40pm, 9.05pm
Un Homme et une Femme 2.10pm, 6.50pm
Hotel du Nord 1.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.05pm
La Vie Revee des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road/A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9pm
Little Voice 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 7.05pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 9.40pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-638 8891) @ Barbican La Vita e Bella 6.15pm, 8.40pm
This Year's Love 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
Affliction 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-488 3323) @ Clapham Common/A Bug's Life 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
Hideoous Kinky 4.45pm, 7.10pm
Madeline 12.45pm, 2.45pm @ (P) 9.30pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm
This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
La Vita e Bella 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

CURZON MINIMA

(0171-369 1723) @ Knightsbridge
Hideoous Kinky 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

CURZON SOHO

(0171-734 2255 (12noon-6pm)) @ Leicester Square
Hideoous Kinky 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
Your Friends and Neighbors 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0990-888990) @ Leicester Square
Hideoous Kinky 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
Your Friends and Neighbors 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill
Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill
Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0870-050007) @ Camden Town
A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm
Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0870-050007) @ High Street
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0870-050007) @ High Street
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD

(0870-907 0711) @ South Kensington/Hideoous Kinky 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
I Think I Do 2pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
Little Voice 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm
The Opposite of Sex 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9pm
Shakespeare in Love 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm
Your Friends and Neighbors 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET

(0870-907 0712) @ Piccadilly
Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Two Girls and a Guy 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.55pm
Your Friends and Neighbors 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO

(0870-907 0716) @ Piccadilly
Enemy of the State 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 7.30pm, 9.40pm
How Stella Got Her Groove Back 12.30pm, 2.10pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm
Living Out Loud 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.20pm
Madeline 12.05pm, 2.05pm, 4.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.05pm
Practical Magic 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

WARRNER VILLAGE WEST END

(0171-437 4343) @ Leicester Square
Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
There's Something About Mary 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
This Year's Love 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

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This Year's Love 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

WARRNER VILLAGE

(0171-437 4343) @ Leicester Square
Turkish Bath 1.25pm,

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley A Bug's Life 6pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 5.40pm, 8.10pm This Year's Love 5.20pm, 8.20pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 9020401) Putney Bridge: Putney A Bug's Life 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm Little Voice 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Shakespeare in Love 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/ODEON: Richmond A Bug's Life 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

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RICHMOND
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Richmond A Bug's Life 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.40pm This Year's Love 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

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CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place, SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) IPS (15) 2.30pm Le Grand Cirque (15) 6.30pm Rosemary and the Lions (12) 8.30pm

ICA The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3647) Terra Estrangeira (NC) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Des Nouvelles du Bon Dieu (18) 6.30pm, 9.15pm

NFT South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232) The Truman Show (PG) 2.30pm Carry On Screaming (PG) 6.15pm Verónica Voss (15) 6.30pm Nothing Sacred (U) 7.30pm Big Steel: Ramon Novarro (NC) 8.30pm Quercia (18) 8.45pm

PHOENIX High Road, N2 (0181-444 6789) Shakespeare in Love (15) 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place, WC2 (0171-437 8181) Peeping Tom (18) 1.30pm Antz (PG) 3.30pm Jackie Brown (15) 6pm Out of Sight (15) 9.10pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road, WC (0171-420 0100) The Magnificent Ambersons (U) 7pm + The Fountainhead 8.50pm

WATERMANS ARTS Centre High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568 1176) Hilary and Jackie (15) 12noon, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.20pm, 9pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 4.50pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Holy Man 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Jack Frost 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.30pm Little Voice 6.40pm, 8.50pm Madeline 12.30pm, 2.50pm Shakespeare in Love 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Stepmom 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm This Year's Love 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup A Bug's Life 6.15pm, 8.45pm The Full Monty 11.30am, 4pm Shakespeare in Love 5.40pm, 8.20pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Crickwood A Bug's Life 1pm, 2.20pm, 3.30pm, 4.40pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.30pm Enemy of the State 8.50pm Holy Man 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm Madeline 12.05pm, 4.15pm Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm Stepmom 6.30pm, 9.15pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Don't Go Breaking My Heart 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Jack Frost 2.10pm Shakespeare in Love 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm Stepmom 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

ODEON (08705 050007) Brixton/Clapham Common A Bug's Life 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9pm Daag 1.10pm, 4.30pm, 7.50pm Holy Man 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 5.45pm, 8.25pm Madeline 12.10pm, 2pm, 3.50pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/Stratford East A Bug's Life 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Holy Man 1.10pm, 4.30pm, 7.50pm Holy Man 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 5.45pm, 8.25pm Madeline 12.10pm, 2pm, 3.50pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

SURREY QUAYS
ABC (0990 888990) Surrey Quays A Bug's Life 1pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 2.40pm, 5pm Enemy of the State 2.40pm Holy Man 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.20pm, 9.55pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 5.40pm Jack Frost 1.40pm, 4pm Little Voice 6.55pm Madeline 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm This Year's Love 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191) Buffalo 66 (15) Palookaville (15) 5pm, 8pm (18)

CINEMARK THE MOVIES (01275-831099) Antz (PG): Baby's Day Out (PG): The Transformers (U): A Bug's Life (U): Don't Go Breaking My Heart (PG): Elizabeth (15): Enemy of the State (15): Hilary and Jackie (15): Holy Man (PG): Jack Frost (PG): Little Voice (15): Madeline (U): West Is the Best (12): The Parent Trap (PG): Practical Magic (12): The Prince of Egypt (U): Shakespeare in Love (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Stepmom (12): This Year's Love (18): Very Bad Things (18): You've Got Me! (PG)

ODEON (08705-050007) A Bug's Life (U): Don't Go Breaking My Heart (PG): Elizabeth (15): Hilary and Jackie (15): Holy Man (PG): Jack Frost (PG): Little Voice (15): Madeline (U): West Is the Best (12): The Parent Trap (PG): Practical Magic (12): The Prince of Egypt (U): Shakespeare in Love (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Stepmom (12): This Year's Love (18): Very Bad Things (18): You've Got Me! (PG)

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THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week, running times include intervals. Seats at all prices. Returns only. Matinees — (1) Sun, (3) Tue, (4) Wed, (5) Thu, (6) Fri, (7) Sat.

ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS
Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Tickets: £10-£25.50. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 2.30pm, ends 26 June, £10-£25.

AMADEUS
David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama based on the life of Mozart. Old Vic Theatre, SE1 (0171-928 7616) BR/De Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 2.30pm, £7.50-£30, 180 mins.

ANNE
Rags to riches story of the orphaned Anne, Victoria Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/De Waterloo, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 2.30pm, £14pm, ends 28 Feb, £12.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

ART
Tom Mannon, Danny Webb, Gary Oliver in Victoria Road's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/66) 0171-867 1111 [4/7] 1pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, £4pm, £11.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Lush family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) [4/7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35, 100 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS
Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) [4/7] 1pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

BUDDY
Musical biopic about the life of Buddy Holly. Strand Palace, WC2 (0171-830 8800) [4/7] 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm, Fri 5.30pm, 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£30, half price Friday matinees, 160 mins.

CATS
Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Theatre, WC2 (0171-405 0072/40) 0171-405 0072, [4/7] 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm, £10-£35, 165 mins.

CHICAGO
Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical about two murderous women and their nightclub act. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) [4/7] 2.30pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee), 130 mins.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)
Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forwards through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) [4/7] 2.30pm, Wed-Sat 8pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, [1] 4pm, £10-£25, 120 mins.

DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN
Mark Little stars in this witty and wise comedy about the sexes. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) [4/7] 2.30pm, Fri-Sat 6pm & 8.45pm, £10-£25, concs available.

DR DOLITTLE
Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Theatre, W1 (0171-416 6071) [4/7] 2.30pm, £12.50-£32.50, 150 mins.

GREASE
Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earls Court, WC2 (0171-494 5080) [4/7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND
Christopher Cazenove and Susan Lynch star in Peter Hall's new production of Wilde's comedy. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) [4/7] 2.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4/7] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £7.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS
Stephen Daldry's production of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) [4/7] 2.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4/7] 2.30pm, £12-£29.50, 110 mins.

KAFKA'S DICK
Eric Sykes and Julia Macdonald star in Ben Benders' comedy about the marriage of a writer. Piccadilly Theatre, W1 (0171-369 1734) [4/7] 2.30pm, Sat 8pm, ends Feb 26, £12-£30.

LIFT OFF
Issues of race are explored in this comedy. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) [4/7] 2.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, £10-£30, concs available.

LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRIKE
Dylan McDermott stars in the revolutionary activist in David Hare's drama. Comedy Pantomime Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) [4/7] 2.30pm, £12-£30, 110 mins.

MACBETH
Rufus Sewall and Sally Dexter portray thwarted ambition. Queen's Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040) [4/7] 2.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5/7] 2.30pm, ends 5 June, £10.50-£28.50.

THE MEMORY OF WATER
Alan Steadman and Julia Sawalha star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning home for their mother's funeral. Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9887) BR/Charing X, Mon-Sat 8pm, [5/7] 8pm, £8-£27.50.

LES MISÉRABLES
Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) [4/7] 2.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5/7] 2.30pm, £7-£35, 195 mins.

MISS SAUNDERS
Musical which retells the Modern Burlesque tragedy. Victoria Theatre, Drury Lane, W1 (0171-494 5060) [4/7] 2.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4/7] 3pm, £8.50-£35, 165 mins.

AMERICAN IMPORTS: MORPHIC RESONANCE
A spiky depiction of three young men as part of the American Imports season. Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) [4/7] 2.30pm, £10-£15, 85 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP
Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St. Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) [4/7] 2.30pm, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £10-£24.50, 135 mins.

OKLAHOMA!
Maureen Lipman stars in the National's acclaimed production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's cowboy versus farmland musical. Lyceum Theatre, W1 (0171-836 3446/66) [4/7] 2.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 2.30pm, ends 26 June, £10-£35.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Theatre, SW1 (0171-494 5400/40) 0171-344 4444 [4/7] 2.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4/7] 3pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

RENT
Musical inspired by La Bohème and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Theatre, W1 (0171-836 3446/66) [4/7] 2.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160 mins.

ROBERT LINDSAY
Stars as the historical villain, Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/88) 0171-836 0479 [4/7] 2.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4/7] 2.30pm, £10-£27.50.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
LITTLETON: Set against the backdrop of the life of William Shakespeare, the play depicts a man's quest for a better life. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/66) 0171-867 1111 [4/7] 1pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, £4pm, £11.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
THE BARBICAN: Set against the backdrop of the life of William Shakespeare, the play depicts a man's quest for a better life. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) [4/7] 1pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

THE PIT: GOODNIGHT CHILDREN
A teenage evacuee returns home at the end of the war and finds the death of his mother. Richard Nelson's moving new drama. In rep. today 2pm & 7.15pm, ends 27 Apr. Barbican Theatre, EC2 (0171-253 8891) [4/7] 2.30pm, £10-£18.50, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-253 8891) [4/7] 2.30

THURSDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

(97.8-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Scott Mills. 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45
Newscast. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 9.00
Steve Lamacq - the Evening Ses-
sion. 10.00 Trade Update. 10.30
John Peel. See *Pick of the Day*.
12.00 Andy Kershaw. 2.00 Emma
B. 4.00 Clive Warren.

RADIO 2

(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake
Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.
12.00 John Inverdale. 2.00 Ed
Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00
David Allen. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00
Punt and Dennis: It's Been a Bad
Week. 9.30 Comedy Showcase: Eat
This. 10.00 Melly Talks Jazz. 10.30
Richard Allison. 12.00 Lynn Par-
sons. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Cop-
land.

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-
cert. Paul Allen introduces a recital
given at the Bridgewater Hall last No-
vember by Louis Lortie (piano).
Beethoven: Piano Sonatas in A, Op
2 No 2; In D minor, Op 31 No 2
(Tape).

2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Ensemble.
4.45 Music Machine.
5.00 In Tune.

7.45 Performance on 3. Live from
the Royal Concert Hall, continuing a
week-long concert series from Glas-
gow which focuses on the influence
of non-western sounds on the Euro-
pean and American classical tradi-
tion. Tonight's programme features
two premieres: Roberto Sierra's per-
cussion concerto, and a new
arrangement of a famous Britten bal-
let. Introduced by Geoffrey
Baskerville. Evelyn Glennie (percus-
sion). Royal Scottish National Or-
chestra/Stewart Bedford. MacMillan:
The Exorcism of Rio Sumpul. Sierra:
Con madero, metal e cuero (first UK
performance).

8.45 News from North Britain. Five
new stories from Scotland. 4: The
Thatched Roof, the Roadside

PICK OF THE DAY

AS IRAN CELEBRATES the 20th
anniversary of the overthrow of
the Shah, Crossing Continents
(11am R4) looks at what life
is like in the country today
and, with more than half the
population under 20, caravans
young Iranians as to what the
future may hold.
The Afternoon Play (2.15pm
R4), "The Virgin Knife" by David
Powell, is the first work in a

series themed around historical
assassinations. Samantha Bond
(right) stars as Charlotte Corday,
the ex-nun who took it upon
herself to plunge a knife into
one of the architects of the
French Revolution, Jean Paul
Marat, while he was in his bath.
On John Peel (10.10pm R1),
PJ Harvey drops by to warble
and chat.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH



Madonna and the Banjo'. By Bill
Duncan. Michael MacKenzie reads
the intriguing tale of the little-known
marriage between Gaelic and Negro
cultures in the 18th century and its
impact on the music and songs of the
Western Isles of Scotland.
9.05 Concert, part 2. Britten, arr
Michele Cooke: Suite 'The Prince of
the Pagodas'.

10.00 Postscript. Alain de Botton
looks to some of the great thinkers of
the past in the hope of finding philo-
sophical cures for some everyday
ills. 4: Never mind agony aunts or
lonely hearts pages - Alain de Bot-
ton discovers how Schopenhauer
soothes the broken-hearted.

10.20 Liszt. Reminiscences of Don
Juan. Ignaz Friedman (piano).
10.45 Night Waves. Paul Allen talks
to the celebrated design historian
Tanya Harrod about her book 'The
Crafts in Britain in the Twentieth
Century'.

In her study, she examines how
craftsmen responded to the
changing artistic and political moods
of the century, tracing their progress
from close-knit modernists, through
wartime propagandists for vernacular
culture, to exemplars of enterprise
Britain - the role in which they were
recast in the 1980s.

11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time.

9.30 Q & A.
9.45 Serial: The Spirit Wrestlers.
10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS; Crossing Continents.
See *Pick of the Day*.
11.30 Fat Chance.
12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Open Country.
2.00 NEWS; The Archers.
2.25 Afternoon Play: Assassins. See
Pick of the Day.

3.00 NEWS; Call You and Yours:
0970 010 0444.
3.30 The Man with the Two-Stroke
Engine (R).

3.45 The Scropted Isle.
4.00 NEWS; Law in Action.
4.30 The Material World.

5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Yes, Minister. (R)

7.00 NEWS; The Archers.
7.25 Front Row. Francine Stock with
the arts programme.

7.45 The Cry of the Bittern. An envi-
ronmental drama by Tim Jackson.
With Lesley Carver, Tony Molloy
and Rachel Atkins. Director Peter
Leslie Wild (R/3).

8.00 NEWS; On Tap: A History of
Drinking Water. Mark Jenner explores
the historical significance of water. 2:
The Great Stink. The filthy condition
of the Thames and outbreaks of
cholera brought about great sanitary
reforms in the 19th century. Profit-
making water companies were eventu-
ally brought into public ownership.

8.30 The Week in Westminster.
Steve Richards of the New States-
man takes a look behind the scenes
at Westminster.

9.00 NEWS; Testbeds. Vanessa
Collingridge explores the technolo-
gies that shape our lives.

9.30 Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time.
Melvyn Bragg and guest discuss
ideas and events which have influ-
enced our time.

10.00 NEWS; The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Post Cap-
tain. Patrick Malahide reads Patrick
O'Brien's novel of life and adventure
in Nelson's Royal Navy. Jack turns
his back on love (R/1).

11.00 NEWS; The Way It Is. Satire,
sketches and a hard look behind the
week's media events. Starring Simon
Evans, Tracy-Ann Oberman, Dave
Lamb and Chris Pavey.

11.30 A Good Read. (R)
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: Sam Peckin-
pah: 'If It Moves, Kill It'.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
1.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(88kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00
12.04 News; Shipping Forecast.
5.45 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.
11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(893, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
12.00 Nick Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Russell and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 On the Line. In-depth investi-
gation of controversial sporting issues.

8.00 Inside Edge. Rob Barnett in-
vestigates sporting issues.

9.00 Hoops. Fat Freddie M rounds
up the latest news from the British
basketball scene.

9.30 Sportshop. Tribe Rawlinson
presents the sports consumer pro-
gramme, including sporting investi-
gations and news of all the latest
sporting gadgets.

10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick
Robinson. Int 1030 Sport 1100
News. 1115 The Financial World
Tonight.

1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM

(100.1-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly.
12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto.
3.00 Jamie Crook. 6.30 Newsnight.

7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven.
9.00 Evening Concert: Fauré:
Overture 'Fauré'. Les Talens
Lyriques/Christopher Rousset. Bach:
Cantata No 211: Schweig stille
plauder nicht. Emma Kirkby (sopra-
no). Academy of Ancient Music. Vi-
valdi: Nuda in mundo pax sincera.

Emma Kirkby (soprano). Academy of
Ancient Music/Simon Preston.
Quartz: Flute Concerto in A. Rachel
Brown. Collegium Musicum 90/Si-
mon Standage. Mozart: Requiem.
Emma Kirkby (soprano). Academy of
Ancient Music/Christopher Hog-
wood. 11.00 Alan Martin. 2.00 Con-
certo. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VERGIN RADIO
(215, 1877-120kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ
Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00
Harriet Scott. 6.45 London Calling
with Harriet Scott/AM Pete and Ge-
off. 7.30 Pete and Geoff. 10.00
Mark Forrest. 10.00 James Merritt.

4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(88kHz LW)
1.00 The World Today. 1.30 West-
way. 1.45 Performance. 2.00 The
World Today. 2.30 Focus on Faith.
3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports
Roundup. 3.30 World Business Re-
port. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The
World Today (400-700).

TALK RADIO
6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David
Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott
Chisholm. 1.00 Anna Rafter. 3.00
Paddy. 5.00 Sports Zone. 7.00
One to One with Andy Gray. 8.00
James Whale. 12.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

IT'S RARE for anybody to be as
aptly named as Tiger Hillarp-Pers-
son, a 28-year-old Swede with a
vigorous attacking style that often
spreads gore throughout the chess
board: most often his opponent's,
but also sometimes his own.

"The Tiger" has just been in
action at the Jersey Open where his
ferocious play earned him a splen-
did 7/7 - no draws on the other foot
this time - for first place, a whole
point-and-a-half clear of the rest.

The seven-round Swiss, spon-
sored for the third year by the
accountancy firm Deloitte and
Touche, ran from 14-20 February.
With a record 125 players in the
three sections. In the 63-player
open, Hillarp-Persson was fol-
lowed by Chris Ward and Tony Cor-
kett on 5.5, and Simon Williams
and Angus Dunnington on 5. The
group of 11 players on 4.5 was
headed by Jim Plaskett, whom
Hillarp-Persson had dispatched in
the final round game below; indeed
the winner beat both of the two
grandmasters - the other was
Chris Ward - with the black pieces.

The Open also gave opportu-
nities to some formidable juniors
sent by the British Chess Federa-
tion to play against senior oppo-
sition, while the 27-player major
resulted in a tie between RGR
Harris (Kingston Chess Club) and
Paul Kelly (ISH Chess Club) on
5.5/7; and in the minor Lucy Smith
(Oxford City) led a field of 34 on 6/7.

This was a rematch following
their last-round game at the third
Hampstead grandmaster tourna-
ment last August, when Hillarp-
Persson had correctly accepted a
somewhat dubious pawn sacrifice
from Jim Plaskett but subsequent-

ly got blown away in just 27 moves.
In an Alekhine's, Plaskett played
the apparently tame g3 and 7 Nf3
but then developed some potential
pressure on the long white diagonal
after Hillarp-Persson played his
thematic break e...e5.

14 c4 was morally forced - the
only way to exploit Black's tempo-
rary looseness. After the first
exchange on f3, 15...Nd3+ 16
Qxd3 Qf6! was then perfectly
playable, but Hillarp-Persson
decided instead to attempt a pawn
himself with 15...Nb4!?. His com-
pensation lay initially in the mas-
sive knight on d3 and play against
White's b pawn. Plaskett tried 16
Bxd3 Nxd3 20 Be3, but in so doing
weakened the white square com-
plex around his king.

This quickly became decisive. If
25 Bf4 Nf3+ 26 Kg2 Qb7 27 Nd6
Rxd6 28 Bxd6 Nd2+ wins; while the
attempt to confuse matters with 28
Bg5 can be met simply with Rd7!
At the end Black is winning a whole
piece - the trapped knight on a7.

White: Jim Plaskett
Black: Tiger Hillarp-Persson
Alekhine Defence

1 e4 Nf6	16 Bxb7 Nbd3
2 e5 Nd5	17 Re2 Rb8
3 d4 d6	18 Be4 Qd4
4 Nf3 dxe5	19 Bxd3 Nxd3
5 Nxe5 g6	20 Be3 Qd7
6 g3 Nd7	21 Rb1 Rf8
7 Nf3 Bg7	22 b3 Qe7
8 Bg2 0-0	23 Nf5 Ne5
9 0-0 e5	24 Qf1 a6
10 Re1 cxd4	25 Na7 Qb7
11 Nxd4 Ne5	26 Qg2 Nf3+
12 Na3 Bg4	27 Kh1 Bd4
13 Nf3 e6	28 c5 Bxe3
14 c1 Bx3	29 Rxe3 Nd4
15 Bxd3 Nb4	0-1

POKER

DAVID SPANIER

A MAN can be in love with poker
and still be unable to express his
feelings about it. Such is the fate of
one Ray Michael B, who describes
himself as a semi-retired neuro-
surgeon and recreational player.

His book, *PokerFace* and
PokerTruth (the *Actual Real World*
of *Poker*), is worth saluting for con-
taining the worst piece of writing
on poker I have ever encountered,
on the quality of the former world
champion Stu Ungar. Here it is:

"If Stu's head is screwed on
right, he is the pony to ride in big
races, because when he's running
decent and in full stride, he will run
over all the other horses silly. And
by that I mean, Charlie boy, there
ain't gonna be no photo finish be-
cause this poker thoroughbred is a
certified speech merchant: he'd be
the only horse in the photo! You can
start walking with that ticket to the
pay-out window now, Charlie boy."

I had waded through some 160
pages of this sort of thing - in
which Shakespeare is dubbed
"Billy" - when I came across some
interesting analysis. The author
applies the principles of poker to
the three decisive engagements in
the Second World War: Pearl Har-
bor, the Battle of Midway, and the
Battle of Britain. Our German
friends have recently criticised the
British for dwelling too much on the

last war, but this review is new.
The battle is seen as "heads up"
between Air Marshal Sir Hugh
Dowding and Hermann Goering.
The Luftwaffe had almost all the
chips (combat-ready aircraft 2,194,
to the RAF's 531). But radar gave
the British, in effect, "a flash peak"
at one of the enemy's hole cards.

According to this analysis,
Dowding used his Hurricane air-
craft as a "pure poker percentage-
play". They were assigned to shoot
down slower German bombers.
Dowding used his few "chips"
sparingly but well, to gain time for
producing new fighter aircraft.

The RAF finally went all in with
"a counter-super-bug bluff", putting
300 aircraft in the air at one time.
Winning this head-on battle almost
exhausted the Air Force's
reserves. An invasion warning was
given. But Hitler's move to switch
the struggle for air supremacy to
the wild play of a blitz on London
proved to be a fatal change of game
plan. The bravery and resource-
fulness of The Few won "a monster
pot". The end of this breathless
account is marked by the author
misquoting Churchill.

*'PokerFace and PokerTruth', Two
Plus Two Publishing, 228 Garfield
Drive, Henderson, Nevada 89014.
price \$19.95*

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

DIRECTOR SIDNEY LUMET has
long been drawn to stories
about corruption, as shown by
such films as *Serpico*, *Prince*
of the City and *Q & A*. He visits
familiar territory again in *Night*
Falls on Manhattan (8.30pm
Sky Premier), a solid thriller
receiving its satellite premiere
tonight. The always reliable Andy
Garcia (right) stars as a young
District Attorney in New York
who discovers that corruption
in the legal system may reach

close to home. Ian Holm adeptly
plays his troubled father.

John Wayne is perhaps the
archetypal movie-star. The
Oscar-winning actor explained
his own enduring appeal: "I play
John Wayne in every picture,
regardless of the character, and
I've been doing alright, haven't
I?" His long and distinguished
career is assessed in today's
Hollywood Hall of Fame
(5.30pm Sky Cinema).



JAMES RAMPTON

12.00 Super Structures (875513). 1.00
Treasure Hunters (880353). 1.30 Wheel
Nuts (849455). 2.00 Close.

SKY ONE
7.00 Court Dusk (84854). 7.30 The
Chris Evans Breakfast Show (75583). 8.30
Hollywood Squares (8689). 9.00 Sally
Jessy Raphael (80458). 10.00 The Oprah
Winfrey Show (8898). 11.00 Gullit
(85303). 12.00 Jerry Jones (2108). 1.00
Mad about You (8212). 1.30 Jeopardy
(84670). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (87835).

3.00 Jerry Jones (8894). 4.00 Gullit
(2281). 5.00 Star Trek (145). 6.00
Dumbest Criminals (8000). 6.30 Dream
Team (8870). 7.00 The Simpsons (2187).

7.30 The Simpsons (8854). 8.00 American
Dumbest Criminals (8835). 8.30 World's
Worstest (8870). 9.00 Friends (88545).

9.30 ER (86564). 10.00 Veronica's Closet
(84564). 11.00 Dream Team (2300). 11.30
Star Trek: Voyager (8525). 12.30 Com-
ish (8048). 1.30 Long Play (78453).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (878800). 7.30
World Wrestling Federation: Shot Gun
(82587). 8.35 Sky Sports Centre
(890000). 9.00 Racing News (88083).

9.30 Aerobics - Oz Style (88553). 10.00
Unbelievable Sports (1918). 10.30 FA Cup
Football: Tottenham v Leeds United (8883).

12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (78544). 2.30
Ringside (85090). 2.00 Spanish Football
(12545). 3.00 Unbelievable Sports (881).

3.30 V-Max (8456). 4.00 Pool (7891).

5.00 World Wrestling Federation Super-
stars (8498). 5.30 Sky Sports Centre
(7830). 6.30 Football League Review
(8632). 7.00 What a Weekend (8075). 7.30
Football Match (8816). 8.00 Spanish Foot-
ball (8689). 9.00 Sky Sports Centre
(88929). 10.00 Jerry Jones (2108). 1.00
(25928). 11.00 Trans World Sport (8224).

12.00 Sky Sports Centre (78379). 12.45
You're on Sky Sports (80353). 1.00 Foot-
ball League Review (8084). 1.30 What a
Weekend (8577). 2.00 Football Match
(8081). 2.30 Spanish Football (8579).

4.30-4.45 Sports Centre (824893).

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (80473). 7.30
Sky Sports Centre (88581). 7.48 Racing
News (84477). 8.45 Unbelievable Sports
(88323). 9.45 Sky Sports Centre
(88672). 10.00 Fish TV Sports Centre
(88672). 10.30 Fish TV Sports Centre
(88672). 11.00 Total Sport
(88672). 11.30 FA Cup Special: Tottenham
v Leeds United (88672). 12.00
Senior PGA Tour (88672). 1.00 Football
League Review (88672). 1.30 What a
Weekend (88672). 2.00 Golf (88672).

11.00 The Rugby Club (88672). 12.00
Tight Lines (88672). 1.00 Ice Hockey
Nottingham v Manchester (88672). 1.30
Sky Sports Centre (88672). 2.00
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THURSDAY TELEVISION

THE THURSDAY REVIEW
The Independent 25 February 1995



ROBERT HANKS TELEVISION REVIEW

RICHARD DAWKINS once suggested that astrologers should be prosecuted for fraud, which sounds harsh but, until stupidity is outlawed, may well be the only viable course of action. But to be fair to astrologers, they do at least offer the semblance of a rational belief system: the idea that the stars shape our characters and destinies may be loopy, but it is internally coherent. It is to astrologers' credit that you can contemplate the very suggestion implies that they can be pinned down to definite, falsifiable claims.

What is far more worrying is the spread of New Age spiritual beliefs in forms so vague and incoherent that prosecution would be inconceivable. What chills does a long shirt expert make that could be held up in court? What would count as evidence against fang shirts?

Looking Good (BBC2) last night looked at the hundreds of applying fang shirts to your wardrobe. For this demonstration, they acquired the services of one fang shirt expert. ("We need to consider the principle. Bless this wall") and one hopeless astrologer with a very messy and overworked cupboard. The expert then used the principles of her ancient Chinese philosophy to explain that it is easier to find things in a less cluttered cupboard, and that to get rid of the clutter it would be sensible to throw away clothes that the owner was not particularly fond of ("Now remember, whenever you let something go, something new will come in"). That's the law of the universe, Feng shui teaches us, also, that the wise man puts his winter clothes in a suitcase in the attic and hangs his shoes from a shoe-organiser. Furthermore, she who does not have to sort through too much mess in the mornings has more time to do the ironing.

This was blatant common sense disguised by a thin veneer of oriental-sounding jargon. The only obvious silliness came when the expert started to analyse colours - too many blues and blacks, she noted, and "blues and blacks relate to money, they relate to career", is self-evident truth, just look at the face of John Major, look at any wealthy, busy person, and you will see it. What the expert needed to do was put something red

In "the relationship area of the wardrobe".

That this sort of nonsense is getting the endorsement of the BBC is shocking. Or it would be if it wasn't in the context of a programme based on women's self-help. In the course of half an hour, new "Millennium" trends were handed down as the word of God ("Fashion designers have decided that white is going to be the colour of the new millennium - it's both Space Age and spiritual"). A feature on the detoxifying, healing powers of mud parroted manufacturers' claims of efficacy with no semblance of criticism or objective evaluation, and, turning to the gym, the viewer was advised to wear something she felt comfortable with: "You'll need all the confidence you can get when you go to the gym, so you need to wear something that makes you feel like a winner. I would like to walk all over London. Turner in spike-heeled boots. Fortunately, I now know where to buy these, having watched the first episode of a new series of 'You're the Top' (BBC2). V.J. Brooks of Northamptonshire has been manufacturing traditional men's shoes for a century, and while the firm has had it ups and downs, things have always evened out. "If while-pickers stop selling, coppers start." Feeling desperate after a disastrous 12 months, managing director Steve Pateman was hunting for new markets, and thought he had found the answer in fetish shoes for men: thigh-length, patent-leather, heel-reinforced stilettos, "whip" boots...

This was a charming sketch of an amiable culture clash, as the unassuming Steve ("I live, I eat, I am shoe") met his customers - at a London fetish fair. An enthusiastic transvestite customer plumped for the PVC "bad in red for me, I'm such a cunt." But it was also an object lesson in how to save a business in how to save a market and plug it for all its worth. Funny boots turned out to have a far off kick.

BBC1

BBC2

ITV Carlton

Channel 4

Channel 5

- 6.00 Business Breakfast** (BBC1, 7.00 News (7.15), 8.00 News (8.15), 8.45 The News Show (8.55), 9.00 News (9.15), 9.30 News (9.45), 10.00 News (10.15), 10.30 News (10.45), 11.00 News (11.15), 11.30 News (11.45), 12.00 News (12.15), 12.30 News (12.45), 1.00 News (1.15), 1.30 News (1.45), 2.00 News (2.15), 2.30 News (2.45), 3.00 News (3.15), 3.30 News (3.45), 4.00 News (4.15), 4.30 News (4.45), 5.00 News (5.15), 5.30 News (5.45), 6.00 News (6.15), 6.30 News (6.45), 7.00 News (7.15), 7.30 News (7.45), 8.00 News (8.15), 8.30 News (8.45), 9.00 News (9.15), 9.30 News (9.45), 10.00 News (10.15), 10.30 News (10.45), 11.00 News (11.15), 11.30 News (11.45), 12.00 News (12.15), 12.30 News (12.45), 1.00 News (1.15), 1.30 News (1.45), 2.00 News (2.15), 2.30 News (2.45), 3.00 News (3.15), 3.30 News (3.45), 4.00 News (4.15), 4.30 News (4.45), 5.00 News (5.15), 5.30 News (5.45), 6.00 News (6.15), 6.30 News (6.45), 7.00 News (7.15), 7.30 News (7.45), 8.00 News (8.15), 8.30 News (8.45), 9.00 News 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